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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

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asking for an increase in
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INSIDE



Aussie Envoy

Australia's new Ambassador for the Western Pacific region visits Saipan.

LOCAL...Page 14



Pillow Fights

People across the globe take part in mass pillow fights.

OFFBEAT...Page 26



Rock Edition

"American Idol" finalist Pia Toscano is on a high.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

Guma Esperansa director gets Lifetime Achievement Award. **PAGE 6**
Delivery man beaten up, stabbed, robbed. **PAGE 9**

DC company lands \$1M deal for NMI broadband mapping

» Two-year process includes solving grant application issues

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration awarded this week a little over \$1 million sole-source contract to Washington, D.C.-based One Economy Corp. for a broadband telecommunications contract funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

See BROADBAND on Page 4

Non-native lizard found on Saipan

Breed known as Oriental Garden Lizard or Blood-sucker Lizard

The Sablan family of Fina Sisu recently handed over to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Fish and Wildlife a lizard that is believed to be a non-native.

The lizard, known as the Oriental Garden Lizard, Eastern Garden Lizard, or Changeable Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*), was cap-

See LIZARD on Page 4

The Oriental Garden Lizard, Eastern Garden Lizard or Changeable Lizard (*Calotes versicolor*) is an agamid lizard found widely distributed in Asia. It has also been introduced in many other parts of the world.

TO REPORT SIGHTING

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Regents select Dr. Hart as NMC president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College announced yesterday the selection of Dr. Sharon Hart as the next president of the college.

Board chair Juan T. Lizama as-

sured that Hart will be offered a "good and negotiable" contract and her response is expected on or before April 12. If the board gets no response from Hart upon expiration of the five-day time frame, the offer will automatically be terminated.

Dr. Hart's selection was made

following the withdrawal of Dr. Christa Adams two weeks ago. The other remaining candidate is Dr. Jeff Armstrong.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hart is presently on a short-term contact with the University College of the Caribbean since Janu-

See REGENTS on Page 4

FOR AVIATION SAFETY

Ports directors from around the Pacific and officials from the Federal Aviation Administration led by FAA regional administrator for the Western Pacific Region William C. Withycombe, seated fourth from right, pose for the *Saipan Tribune* during a short break yesterday afternoon at the last day of the three-day 2011 Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. A total of 133 delegates from the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia came together to promote safety and security at airports and facilities, at the event organized by the FAA and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Local

House committee starts work on 2012 budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Ways and Means Committee has begun work on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's \$102-million budget plan for fiscal

year 2012, even as chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday the House leadership is "leaning toward" welcoming a popular initiative instead of legislation on legalizing casinos on Saipan.



"We talked about how to approach the budget process. Our resources are very low. We don't have much option," Basa said.

He said his committee has started reviewing the figures that the governor submitted on April 1.

Fitial's \$102-million budget for 2012 is down from the original \$132 million budget for 2011, which was revised Monday to \$122 million as projected revenues continue to drop.

Basa reiterated that there will be no several public hearings wherein government departments and agencies will try to ask for more than what the governor submitted.

"We all know we don't have enough...But we will still call agencies when we have questions or need clarification. Government agencies and departments will have the opportunity to air their concerns when the budget bill is put on the floor," he added.

He said he will try to have a budget bill ready for House action in two months.

Basa said the budget discussion with the governor also touched on the issue of legalizing casinos on Saipan, as the administration and the House look at viable industries to help revive the sagging economy.

The freshman lawmaker said the House leadership is aware of the Senate leadership's statement that if a Saipan casino bill is put to a vote today, they will reject it.

The Senate killed a House bill on Saipan casino last year. Since then, at least one Saipan casino legalization bill has been introduced and at least two are being drafted.

"If the Saipan popular initiative wins, Rota and Tinian will also benefit. Most of the revenues generated by the Saipan casino will go to the general fund through business gross revenue tax, for example, which benefits the whole CNMI. Rota and Tinian will also receive direct funding," he said.

Tenorio, a former governor and speaker, reiterated that if he were the governor, he will start terminating government employees from Rota and Tinian since these islands generate only some \$2.5 million each in revenues annually but was funded over \$6 million each in fiscal year 2011.

Judicial nominees require the advice and consent of the Senate.

There are at least 16 sets of questions ranging from basic information such as name, position, education, employment record, bar and court admission, and membership, to percentages and types of cases that they presided over as a trial judge, for example, or enumeration of

Popular initiative

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who was the author of the Saipan casino bill that the Senate killed, said yesterday that he will challenge a popular initiative on legalizing casinos on Saipan.

He said last year that he will

Senate now requires judicial nominees to answer 15-page EAGI questionnaire

The Senate amended its rules Wednesday night, requiring future judicial nominees to answer at least 15 pages of questions for the Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations.

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See NOMINEES on Next Page

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Suspect in Shirley's burglary gets 6-month sentence

One of the suspects who burglarized the building of Shirley's Coffee Shop in Susupe entered a guilty plea as part of a plea bargain and was sentenced yesterday to six months in prison.

Theodore O. Pehnos, 23, pleaded guilty to burglary on Wednesday. He was sentenced to two years in prison, all suspended except for six months, with credit for time served.

NOMINEES

From Page 2

the 10 most significant litigated matters.

Judicial nominees will also be asked about their outside commitments during court service, sources of income, potential conflicts of interest, and pro bono work, as well as their net worth, and assets and liabilities.

The Senate approved the rule amendment by a vote of 9-0, during a three-hour session Wednesday night that ended around 9:30pm.

That was some five hours before four senators left for China to meet with Tinian casino investor Bridge Investment Group.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Saipan) said the "Committee on EAGI Questionnaire for Judicial Nominees" is tailored after the U.S. Senate questionnaire.

He said this will help the panel gather more information from judicial nominees.

"We believe it's a good idea to allow the EAGI Committee to gather as much information about the judicial nominees as possible, including their strengths and weaknesses, their published articles, opinions and affiliations. It will be a standard procedure," he said.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the amendment was a result of numerous discussions among the members. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

After completing his sentence on May 14, 2011, Pehnos will be placed on probation for three years and required to pay a \$1,000 fine, court costs, and probation fees.

Pehnos was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service, pay restitution to the victim in an amount to be

determined at a later hearing, and write a letter of apology to the victim.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Pehnos and co-defendants Roland R. Kaipat and Shabbo C. Sablan with burglary, criminal mischief, and conspiracy to commit burglary.

With Pehnos' plea deal, all remaining charges against him

were dropped. He has also agreed to fully cooperate with authorities, including truthful testimony if called as a witness against his co-defendants.

Detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that police received a call on Nov. 15, 2010, at 2:07am from an anonymous caller about a burglary in progress at Shirley's Coffee Shop in

Susupe. Police officers responded to the scene and spotted the suspects and arrested them.

Police saw copper wires that were already skinned and ready for transport in the generator room of the building. The damage to the electrical system at the restaurant was estimated at \$10,435.20, Castro said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Senate suspends ETC; amends scholarship rule

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed on Wednesday night a bill suspending the educational tax credit until government work hours are back to 80 hours per pay period, and another one halting the distribution of CNMI Scholarship Office checks by batches and instead allows scholarship payments on a pro-rata basis.

Senators also passed Senate Resolu-

tion 17-44, honoring the late Manuel Seman Villagomez, fondly known as Tan Ne' Kiyu, one of the CNMI's pioneer entrepreneurs.

The Senate will be presenting the resolution during today's funeral Mass for Villagomez.

The Senate held a session from 6:30pm to around 9:30pm on Wednesday, a few hours before four senators were to leave Saipan for China at the invitation of a casino investor on Tin-

ian, Bridge Investment Group.

By a vote of 7-0 with two abstentions, senators passed Sen. Juan Ayuyu's (Ind-Rota) Senate Bill 17-68, suspending the educational tax credit during periods of government austerity.

Senate floor leader Pete Reyes (R-Saipan) and Sen. Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan) abstained.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said of the average \$1.2 million in ETC, only some 10 percent or \$120,000 goes to

Senate resolution honors women's group

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A resolution that seeks to acknowledge a non-profit women's organization for its unwavering public service has been pre-filed with the Senate.

Introduced by Sen. Jovita M. Taimanao (Ind-Rota), S.R. 17-46 recognizes the CNMI Women's Association.

Established in March 2010, CWA is a locally founded organization comprised of inspired women who want to carry on with their critical, economic, cultural, and social roles in the CNMI.

CWA aims to enable the public to further enrich the quality of community and personal life in the CNMI, to promote a stronger community and a supportive public climate by providing member services, public awareness, and advocacy.

It also targets to access and address the needs of and increase the awareness of the community at large, strengthen relationships among community members and policymakers in their respective communities, enhance and promote strategic philanthropy, establish permanent funding for an inter-island wide nonprofit association, and convene and support a dynamic learning community for the

betterment of the CNMI.

The CWA is composed of representatives from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota "for a unified civic involvement and participation."

The CWA officers are Susana B. Deleon Guerrero, president; Laura I. Man-

glona, vice president; Joann T. Aquino, treasurer; and Betsy Ann Cruz, secretary.

Board of directors include House Vice Speaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), and Taimanao.

CNMI joins National Passport Day

The CNMI will join the celebration of National Passport Day in the U.S. by opening its office on Saturday to assist residents in processing, applying, and obtaining their passports.

April 9, 2011, has been designated "Passport Day in the USA," a national annual event that began in March 2009.

Jenny Castro-Norita, U.S. passport acceptance agent and supervisor in the Commonwealth, said they will take advantage of the occasion by opening the CNMI Passport Office on Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

"We, the staff at the U.S. Passport Office, Saipan, have seen the importance of obtaining a passport now, rather than later. For one, it's much easier to apply at a young age since fewer documents are required. Second, you can save yourself a lot of money by avoiding paying the expedite fees due to urgent and last-minute travels," said Castro-Norita.

"We, the staff at the U.S. Passport Office, Saipan, have seen the importance of obtaining a passport now, rather than later. For one, it's much easier to apply at a young age since fewer documents are required. Second, you can save yourself a lot of money by avoiding paying the expedite fees due to urgent and last-minute travels," said Castro-Norita.

in different colleges and universities.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hart

once applied for the NMC presidency and was one of the top candidates but later withdrew her application. During that search process, Dr. Carmen Fernandez was named to the position.

NMC offers an \$80,000 annual salary for the college president, excluding benefits. Lizama pointed out that even though the contract is negotiable, this may not pertain to salary but to some other details of the proposed package such as housing and other provisions.

The board, he said, has reviewed the proposed contract, a draft of which was provided only yesterday to board legal counsel Jesus Borja.

Those who voted for Hart's selection included Lizama, Elaine Orilla, Malua Peters, and Andrew Orsini, who participated through teleconference. Regent

Frank Rabauliman was absent during yesterday's meeting.

Lizama disclosed that Hart's proposed contract is for two years and can be terminated without cause, as decided by the board. "It's a secured contract," he said.

At this point, Lizama said the board has no Plan B in case Hart refuses the contract offer. "Our position is none at this time, because this is a process that we're taking."

In an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Lizama had said that the board may not consider offering the same contract to a third candidate if the second choice refuse the offer.

NMC has had no permanent president since January 2010 when the board suspended and then terminated Fernandez. There's a pending lawsuit on the matter.

poisonous and they do not pose a threat to human life. However, because they are not native to the CNMI, they pose a threat to the native skinks and other lizards in the Commonwealth, as well as the native forest birds.

"We do not want the Oriental Garden Lizard to become established on Saipan, because of the potential environmental threat it would pose for our native birds and animals," said a DLNR statement.

If you see an Oriental Garden Lizard call 28-SNAKE (287-6253) or (671) 777-HISS (4477). (**DLNR**)

REGENTS

From Page 1

ary 2010 where she is serving as deputy president. She is currently in Jamaica with her husband, Steve, and 13-year-old son, Micah.

Hart, based on available data on the Web, was raised and born in Michigan and has almost 30 years experience in higher education. She has served as president of the North Dakota State College of Science, president of Middlesex Community College in Connecticut, and vice president for academic and student affairs at North Central Technical College in Wisconsin.

She obtained her doctorate from the University of Illinois and has also pursued studies at Harvard University. Hart has also served various positions

in different colleges and universities.

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recorded in the CNMI. This species has invaded other islands and areas including Diego Garcia and the State of Florida.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Brown Tree Snake program is now surveying the capture area to determine if there are more of these lizards on island. Survey work is being supported by members of the Sablan family and by the U.S. Department of the Interior through biologist James Stanford from the Brown Tree Snake Response Coordination Office in Guam.

Oriental Garden Lizards are native to Asia and have not previously been

tured by the Sablans outside their farm-land.

This species is known to eat insects and other lizards smaller than itself. They may also eat bird eggs. Male Oriental Garden Lizards get a bright red throat during mating season, which has led some to call this lizard the "Blood-sucker."

Oriental Garden Lizards are native to Asia and have not previously been

public schools. He said it would be better to directly fund the Public School System rather than giving ETCs during periods of government austerity.

The bill's findings said during difficult economic times, the government cannot afford a tax credit that diminishes the overall money received in tax revenues.

"Those who can afford to give to schools or other charitable organizations, after all, are often better off than our less fortunate citizens," the bill says.

By a vote of 9-0, the Senate also passed Senate President Paul Manglona's (Ind-Rota) SB 17-69, requiring that the scholarship fund pay scholarships on a pro-rata basis instead of by batches.

"This bill will allow every student who qualifies for a scholarship to receive a check each time there is an allotment for scholarship payment, until such time that all scholarships are funded," the bill says.

NTIA's ruling that the waiver didn't apply to One Economy as an SPE.

"One Economy not only has detailed budget information as they developed the application, but they possess the expertise to carry out the work required by the funding agency," Ada said in an April 12, 2010, letter to Sablan.

He said in his letter that the CNMI assessed its public and private sector capacity to carry out broadband mapping and recognized that "no such entity existed not only in the CNMI, but anywhere in the region."

"This unavailability of expertise was the sole reason that American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI opted to utilize this firm," Ada told Sablan.

Ada quit his post as Commerce secretary and ARRA state point of contact in October 2010 but has since got a sole-source contract for his private firm, Integrated Professional Solutions, to manage the ARRA program.

Two days after Ada sent his letter, Sablan determined that the One Economy Corp. "is the only source [that] can carry out the broadband mapping for the CNMI."

Contract approval

Almost a year later, CNMI government officials started signing off on the sole-source contract for One Economy Corp., 531071-OC, in March this year.

Acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar signed it on March 2, followed by Sablan on March 14, and by acting Finance secretary Larrisa Larson. Buckingham signed it on March 21, and Inos, on March 28. The contractor's representative signed it on March 29, and Sablan certified the completion of the contract.

Press secretary Angel Demapan also provided yesterday a timeline of the broadband mapping grant timeline, as provided by the CNMI ARRA Office.

Fred Camacho, CNMI ARRA information technology/communications manager, confirmed yesterday that no payments have been made to One Economy "as there was no contract in place until recently."

"The only work done thus far was collaboration for the contract," he said.

In October 2009, the CNMI ARRA Office issued a press release announcing that the Office of the Governor has partnered with One Economy "in its efforts to create a comprehensive broadband availability map for the CNMI, identifying and reducing barriers to broadband access, while also recognizing the opportunities for broadband expansion in unserved and underserved areas."

One Economy Corp.'s website is <http://www.one-economy.com>.

ARRA has allotted \$7.2 billion for the development and expansion of broadband nationwide, \$350 million of which has been set aside for the Broadband Data Improvement Act, allowing states and territories to develop granular and transparent broadband serviceability maps enabling consumers to understand the options that are available and not available to them at the address level.

LIZARD

From Page 1

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poisonous and they do not pose a threat to human life. However, because they are not native to the CNMI, they pose a threat to the native skinks and other lizards in the Commonwealth, as well as the native forest birds.

"We do not want the Oriental Garden Lizard to become established on Saipan, because of the potential environmental threat it would pose for our native birds and animals," said a DLNR statement.

Ada said that, while the protocol to put out to bid any work to be covered under the funding is "understandable, it is not equitable" to One Economy, which the CNMI designated prior to

CNMI joins National Passport Day

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Jenny Castro-Norita, U.S. passport acceptance agent and supervisor in the Commonwealth, said they will take advantage of the occasion by opening the CNMI Passport Office on Saturday from 10am to 3pm.

"We, the staff at the U.S. Passport Office, Saipan, have seen the importance of obtaining a passport now, rather than later. For one, it's much easier to apply at a young age since fewer documents are required. Second, you can save yourself a lot of money by avoiding paying the expedite fees due to urgent and last-minute travels,"

said Castro-Norita.

She said this will be the first time the Commonwealth will join the event. Other passport agencies and passport acceptance facilities all over the U.S. will be open on the same day to serve customers.

She encouraged the public, especially working parents, to take advantage of the occasion and visit the office, where staff will be able help fill up the required forms and documents.

Last fiscal year, the CNMI government collected over \$300,000 in passport fees from about 3,000 applicants, Castro-Norita said.

The U.S. Passport Office in the Commonwealth receives a little over 3,000 applications each year.

Castro-Norita estimated that her office receives around 200 applications per month but noted the highest so far recorded was over 300 applicants in March 2011. (*Moneth Deposa*)







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Guma Esperansa director receives Lifetime Achievement Award

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For her contributions in the field of social work in the region, Guma Esperansa director Laurie Ogumoro was chosen as the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Social Workers Guam Chapter.

With 145,000 members and 56 chapters, NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world. It works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, create and maintain professional standards, and advance sound social policies.

Ogumoro, who was nominated and voted on by chapter members, accepted the award

in a ceremony held in Guam on March 25.

The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to a social worker who is a chapter member and demonstrates repeated outstanding achievements, recognition beyond the social work profession, contributions of lasting impact, and outstanding creativity.

"It's an honor to be recognized for my services to the community," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Ogumoro graduated with a degree in Anthropology and Sociology with emphasis in Social Welfare from the Eastern Oregon University before

getting married and moving to Saipan to start her career in social work.

"I'm very pleased and very proud of her and her organization for taking care of the needs of victims who deserve all the assistance to make their lives better and more peaceful," said Ogumoro's husband, CNMI coordinator for Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council Jack Ogumoro.

Laurie Ogumoro worked for the CNMI government as a medical social worker for then Dr. Torres Hospital, now known as Commonwealth Health Center, for 20 years. It was then hospital administrator Greg Calvo who encouraged

her to get a master's degree in Social Work, which was needed to meet work requirements, at the University of Hawaii.

"He really pushed me to go and get my master's degree so the hospital could meet certain accreditation levels. I was very fortunate," said Ogumoro.

After retiring from government service in 2001, Ogumoro became the director of Karidat's Guma Esperansa and has been there for the last nine years. "I love the opportunity to use my skills and education to help people," she said. "It's very rewarding."

Lack of resources

According to Ogumoro, being a social worker on island is always a challenge mainly because of the lack of resources.

"It's not like when we're in the United States where there's money for this and that so you have to always be very creative and help people get by with whatever is available here," she said.

To address the issue, Ogumoro said they resort to applying for grants "to try and fill in the gap."

Fortunately, she said, they have been successful in availing of federal funding for Guma Esperansa, the women's shelter that provides services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

According to Ogumoro, they just got the funding for the transitional housing program, which will provide housing support to victims for up to two years.

She said that before the grant, victims only receive assistance for a month, so that those who couldn't go home or don't want to go home have no choice but to go back to an abusive situation.

"Supporting them for a month is just not enough to get stabilized on your own two feet," said Ogumoro.

With the funding, she said victims will have enough time

to get a stable job, finish school, or do anything they have to do to become independent and live violence-free lives.

'Very beautiful'

Although being a social worker entails a lot of work, Ogumoro maintains that the rewards are far more than the hard work once she sees the positive changes.

"It's very challenging at times but the end result is very beautiful when you see a victim or survivor become really strong as they move on with their life. It's a good thing. That's really rewarding and it keeps me going," she said.

Ogumoro still dreams of establishing a crisis center to provide quality, comprehensive services to victims of sexual violence. She disclosed that they have already applied for a grant and has collaborated with the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, CHC, and Public Safety.

She encourages people to consider social work as a career. "It's a very rewarding profession, one that can really help people move on with their lives and make positive changes."

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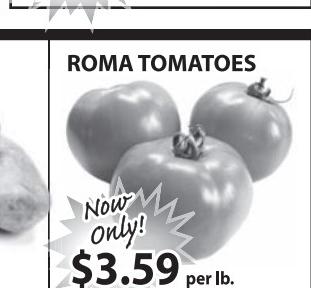
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- 2nd Prize: Bumper to Bumper Maintenance Package valued at \$100 at Triple J Motors.
- 5th Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate at Truong's Vietnamese restaurant.

Service disruptions blamed on road projects

IT&E customers who live along Isa Drive have experienced sporadic service interruptions as a result of an unplanned cable cut that occurred during the ongoing roadwork project in several villages across Saipan.

IT&E technicians and service crews are working with government agencies and their contractors in an effort to prevent future service interruptions to its customers in these project areas.

"While IT&E supports our community partners, there are additional infrastructure projects that occur without our

knowledge. Despite our best efforts, these contractors or agencies do not call in for assistance until they have actually cut the cables and IT&E is apprised of the situation only when a customer is out of service," the company said in a statement.

IT&E is reminding all contractors, homeowners, and building owners of the importance of contacting IT&E prior to any type of digging.

According to IT&E Plant Technical service manager, Velma Palacios, the CNMI has experienced a large number of un-

necessary cable cuts along the lines that connect its customers to the world. Often times these cable cuts result in costly damage or service interruptions to the community.

When a cut to the cable occurs, offenders are charged per the Commonwealth Utility Damage Prevention Act of 1994. Palacios said that repairs are costly and deprive both residential and business customers of services.

"IT&E cables are not the only underground utilities (water, power, and sewer), and those

services might also be jeopardized if they are unintentionally cut," said Palacios.

Unlike other telecommunication companies, IT&E does not charge a fee for cable location that occurs during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 4:30pm.

For more information or to request a cable locate, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) or see cable locate information in the 2011 CNMI Phone Book, available free of charge at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. (IT&E)



BRIDGE CAPITAL STEPS UP

Bridge Capital donates \$10,000 to the NMI Japan Disaster Relief Organization. In the photo are Nick Nishikawa, president of NMI Japan Disaster Relief Organization; Roger Slater, Bridge capital CFO and general manager; Masanori Takahashi, vice president of the NMI JDRO; and Yoichi Matsumura, treasurer of the NMI JDRO. Others in the photo are Bridge Capital staff members.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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KINISOU CHAPUR

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 8, 2002

NMI beefs up drive vs. brown tree snake

The Office of Insular Affairs has granted the CNMI government \$100,000 that would be used primarily to beef up the public education and awareness campaign against the Brown Tree Snake. Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed the grant documents Friday in the presence of OIA Field Representative Jeffrey Schorr, Washington Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio and CNMI herpetologist Nate Hawley of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The high point of the press briefing, however, came when Hawley came up to the front, opened a white sack and brought out an approximately four feet long Brown Tree Snake that curled and snaked its way down his forearm.

'Bottle-feeding may be bad for babies'

The Secretariat for the Pacific Community, a health group composed of 22 member countries and territories, said the use of baby bottles to feed infants with milk can cause negative health effects. The SPC is campaigning against the use of baby bottles, saying that there is even a legislative move to ban the commercial sale of the product in the Federated States of Micronesia. "This seems to be a little bit new to some of the colleagues who were in the workshop. The recommendations now are that baby bottles should not be used, and if a drink needs to be given to a baby or a child, then an open mouth cup should be used," said Wendy Snowdon, SPC's nutrition education and training officer, who conducted a seminar on Saipan among local government officials last week.

April 8, 2003

Marianas remains free from SARS

The Marianas region continues to be SARS-free, after authorities on Guam cleared the 9-year-old girl who was earlier suspected of acquiring the mysterious virus from Hong Kong. Had the diagnosis been the opposite, the case would have been the first documented SARS case in the region. The U.S. Navy confirmed this to the Saipan Tribune. Yesterday, there was no other suspected SARS case reported on Guam and Saipan. "The child no longer meets the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's case definition for SARS. She is no longer a suspected SARS case. She and her family are no longer quarantined to their home," said Lt. Thurraya S. Kent, public affairs officer of the Naval Forces Marianas on Guam.

NMI ups monitoring vs SARS

Local medical experts and other concerned government officials brainstorm everyday to discuss the latest on the deadly disease—Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome or SARS—that originated in a southern China province and has since gone global. Department of Public Health Medical Director Dr. Richard Brostrom, who also heads the SARS Response and Preparedness team, said members of the group hold discussions everyday. "The group meets daily to closely monitor SARS." SARS has so far caused the death of at least 89 people—from 79 last Friday—and infected more than 2,400 others worldwide.

April 8, 2004

Two vessels allowed emergency entry

Two vessels that sought refuge from Typhoon Sudal on Saipan have been granted emergency entry, according to Division of Immigration's Capt. Vince Lizama, officer in charge of airport and seaport operations. "We have a regulation that states that vessels in distress are allowed entry provided that the master of the vessel submit a report to our director," Lizama said. "We open our doors to people experiencing difficulties due to weather and mechanical problems, or if someone is in need of medical assistance. It's just the humanitarian thing to do." Lizama said the two vessels—the Taivalu and Papuku—would remain at Sugar Dock in Puerto Rico until the weather clears. He said the crew would remain on the vessels, which will depart as soon as the weather clears.

Panel reviewing \$226M budget proposal

The House Committee on Ways and Means is carefully reviewing the \$226-million budget proposal submitted by the Babauta administration to study whether revenue sources would suffice for the needed funding allocation for fiscal year 2005. Committee chair Norman Palacios disclosed yesterday that panel members, along with the House consultants, are reviewing the budget proposal to address the issues. The review would particularly focus on the Integrated Fiscal Proposal that is projected to generate an additional \$16.5 million in revenue if passed by the Legislature.

Delivery man beaten up, stabbed, robbed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A deliveryman was beaten up, stabbed, and robbed by one of three persons at a store in Chalan Kanoa on Tuesday at noon.

The victim, a 43-year-old Chinese national, required 31 stitches for two deep lacerations on the left forearm.

His wallet containing \$400 cash and driver's license was stolen, according to NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Jason Tarkong yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that the victim is Hua Ming Zhang, a driver/delivery man of Feng Ze Corp.

The first suspect was described as a local man in his early 20's, about 5'6" tall, medium built, with dark hair tied in the back, and wearing a black tank top and shorts. The suspect's two companions were described as possibly teenage boys.

The robbery occurred at LF Market near Silver Resort and Moonlight Shopping.

Tarkong said the victim was delivering tofu to LF Market on Tuesday at 12:45pm when the first suspect approached him and asked to see his wallet. When the victim refused, the first suspect punched him.

The victim went inside LF Market and attempted to call the police on his cell phone. The first suspect followed



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Hua Ming Zhang, a driver/delivery man of Feng Ze Corp., was beaten up, stabbed, and robbed by one of three persons at a store in Chalan Kanoa on Tuesday at noon.

the victim inside the store, grabbed the cell phone, and broke it. The suspect then attacked the victim with a knife.

During the struggle, one of the younger boys pulled the first suspect away. The three suspects then fled north.

The victim told *Saipan Tribune* that when the suspects fled, he called his employer. Police arrived and medics brought him to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The owner of LF Market said the surveillance camera did not capture the attack.

Tarkong said the Department of Public Safety and NMI Crime Stoppers Program are seeking the community's assistance for information about the robbery.

The Crime Stoppers hotline is 234-7272. Tips may also be sent through its website at www.nmicrimestoppers.com. Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 cash for any information leading to an arrest.

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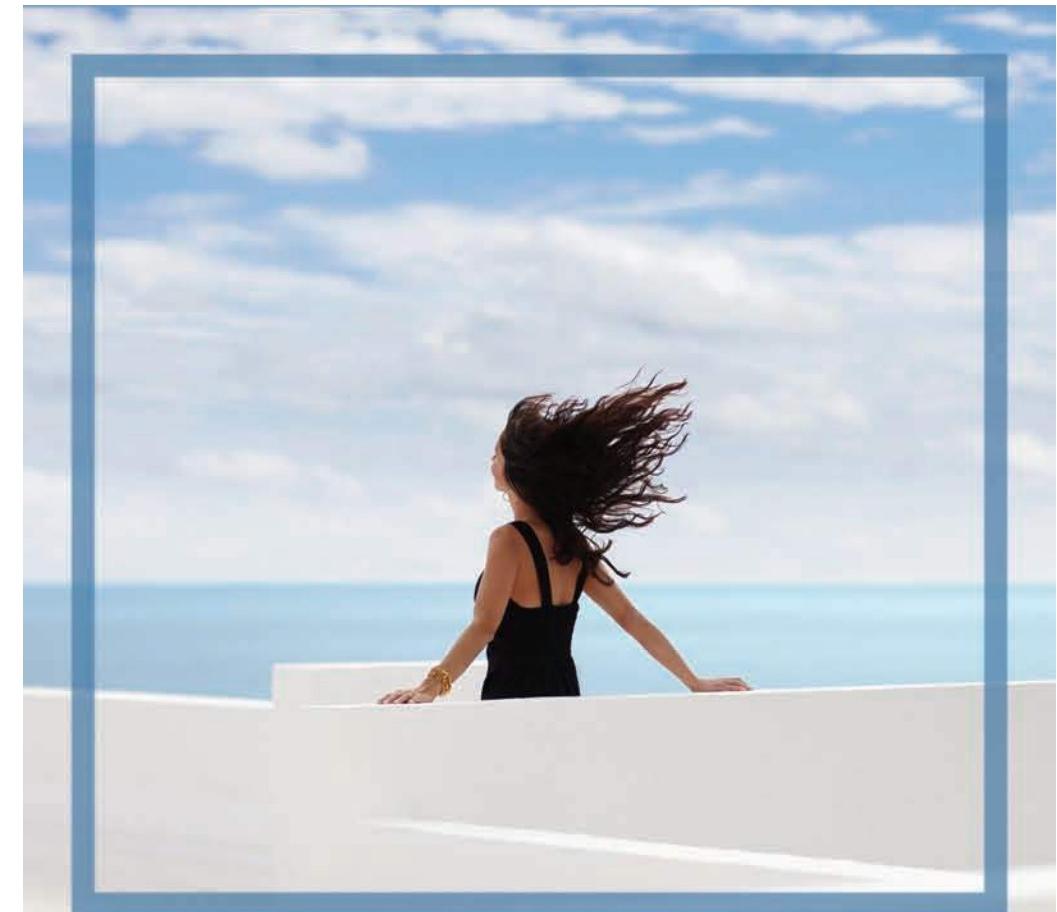


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Opinion

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A noble Bible, still divisive

By JOHN TIMPANE

The Philadelphia Inquirer

John Timpane is media editor/writer for The Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may send him email at jt@phillynews.com.



What is the word of God? To answer that question, millions have died, and churches and governments have risen and fallen.

One thing is certain: Whatever the word of God may be, to get into print, it must first pass through the minds and hands of human beings.

That's the lesson of this, the 400th anniversary of perhaps the single most famous book in English, a book printed more than a billion times, a book still the focus of faith, prayer and controversy.

In 1611, the first edition appeared of what's known as the Authorized King James Version. (James I commissioned it, but never officially authorized the result. Still, the name stuck.) The KJV is a shaping force of our language, a treasure in its own right, a mighty collection of wisdom, holiness and comfort—and a warning against extremism in religious and secular life.

Its creation took seven years' work by 47 of England's most learned men. Along with the works of Shakespeare, it has exerted the strongest and longest effect on the vocabulary, syntax and cadence of English of anything ever printed. Many of us grow up imprinted with its rhythms and language. It's there in Jefferson, Darwin, Dickens, Whitman, Stowe, Lincoln, Melville, Faulkner, Hemingway, Byatt. Few writers in English have been free of its influence. Many of us can recall verses in a moment:

Psalm 126:4: "Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south."

Ecclesiastes 11:1: "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days."

Matthew 5:5: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth."

1 Corinthians 2:9: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

Its words still challenge, elevate, elate, daunt and startle.

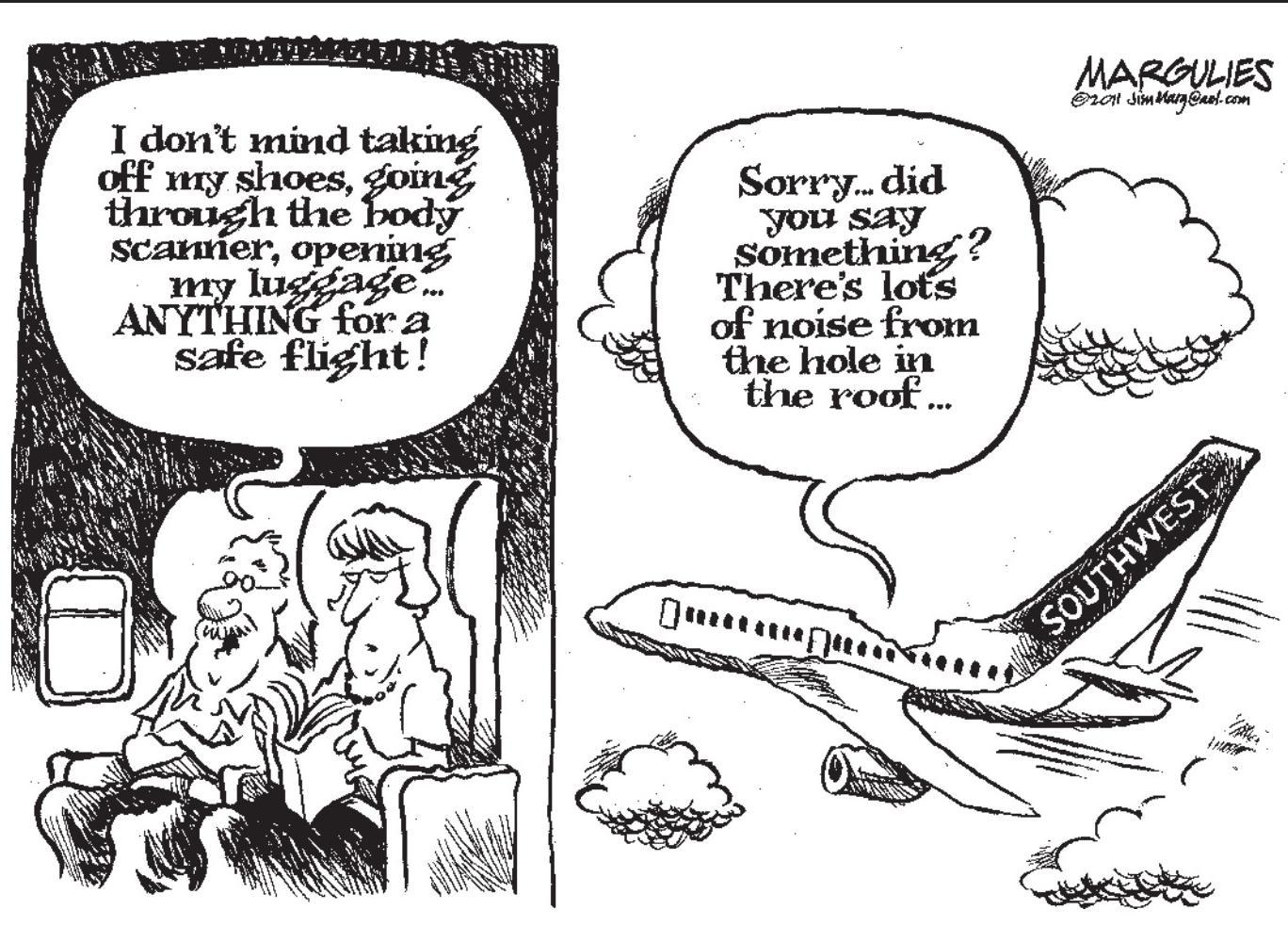
Debra Shuger, distinguished professor of English at UCLA, says, "What has always struck me about it is its faithfulness to the Greek and Hebrew originals. You can find errors and question interpretations, yes, but these were translators who heard the poetry, the underlying feeling, and stay true to it throughout." She thinks modern translations, which are "true to a different aspect of the text—the literal meaning of words," miss this.

She says when she first read the KJV cover to cover, she was amazed at how consistent the translation was. "All the images of 'ransoming' and 'redemption,' from book to book, stay steady," she says. "And when the word is 'fulfillment,' whether of a period of time or a pregnancy coming to term, they stay with it. They're very sensitive."

But this book cannot stand apart from religion, or what it means today.

As it was from the beginning, the KJV remains a compromise, a committee work. The Church of England was only a couple of generations old. King and bishops worried about Protestants, Catholics and Puritans. All had their own Bibles, and many had their eyes on power. The challenge was to create a Bible that clarified what the

See BIBLE on Next Page



Republican budget plan is bad news, good news

» Bad for NMI seniors, students, families; good for the rich

Editor's Note: The following is Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's response to the Republican Party budget proposals announced yesterday.

The GOP budget plan, announced yesterday, ends the Medicare health insurance guarantee for seniors, cuts education funding, and raises college costs for 10 million students nationwide. The GOP plan, dubbed the "Path to Prosperity," adds to the tax cuts the wealthy already received during the Bush era, piling on another \$1 trillion to the deficit.

This plan is clearly bad news for the most vulnerable in our society, although it's good news for the rich.

We all agree that the U.S. has to get its fiscal house in order. But we have certain values in this country. We believe in fairness. We believe in protecting those who are most in need. We believe that all of us have to contribute to the common good.

The Republican budget plan represents just the opposite of those values. Instead of providing a path to prosperity it's going to mean a poorer quality of life for the vast majority of Americans—including those of us here in the Northern Marianas.

It's a plan for the rich and the powerful, not the common person.

Seniors will pay more for Medicare

I am particularly troubled by what will happen to the Medicare system many of our seniors rely on.

Republicans want to replace the Medicare health insurance program with vouchers. Instead of getting all the care they need through the government insurance program, seniors would be limited to what they could buy from private insurance companies, using the voucher.

And whatever that private insurance didn't cover, seniors would have to pay for themselves.

This change makes no sense. Medicare is one of the most effective government programs we have. The administrative costs of Medicare are lower than for private insurers. So converting to a voucher system will just put more money in the pockets of the insurance companies and reduce the health care our seniors can get.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office issued its own report on the Republican proposal yesterday and came to the same conclusion: "[U]nder the proposal, most elderly people would pay more for their health care than they would pay under the current Medicare system."

CBO identified two reasons why seniors will pay more under the Republican budget. "First, private plans would cost more than traditional Medicare because of the net effect of differences in payment rates for providers, administrative costs, and utilization."

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLÁN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the 112th U.S. Congress.

tion of health care services. Second, the government's contribution would grow more slowly than health care costs, leaving more for beneficiaries to pay."

Top tier taxpayers take even more breaks

At the same time the Republican Path to Prosperity will leave seniors paying more but getting less health care, the GOP wants to slash taxes for the wealthiest Americans. The plan is long on rhetoric and short on details when it comes to taxes, but it's clear that the wealthiest Americans will be the beneficiaries of the GOP plan.

Republicans propose to make the Bush-era tax cuts that were extended last December permanent. In addition, they want to cut the top individual tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent. Yet, while the rich will get a new tax cut, Republicans say they are going to keep overall tax revenues the same.

You do the math: The only way to lower taxes for some people and keep revenues the same is to raise taxes for the 90 percent of Americans who don't rate a tax break under the Republican plan.

I know that people in the Marianas may feel insulated from these changes in tax law. But we are not. Our tax system mirrors the national system. What changes in the national tax code changes in ours.

Furthermore, we have to remember that ultimately our prosperity is linked to American prosperity. If America's middle-class is being hollowed out by the Republican policies, our country grows weaker as the years go by and the future of the Northern Mariana Islands also grows dim.

Republican budget balanced on the back of those with lowest incomes

Especially troubling for the future well-being of America are cuts to education the GOP is proposing.

I believe that education is our true path to prosperity, but the Republicans are putting up roadblocks to those who need help getting a better education.

For instance, we have about 1,000 students from the Northern Mariana Islands, receiving Pell grants to help with college expenses. But they will all see the Pell grant cut under the Republican pro-

See REPUBLICAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Three wise men

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



It's no secret on Saipan that China is a big deal. Some folks are hoping that China's growing middle class will buoy the fortunes of the Commonwealth's moribund tourism industry. Meanwhile, others are looking outward instead of inward and have gone, or will go, to China to make inroads.

Instead of beating my gums about China today, I'll mention three prominent guys who have some interesting things to say about the middle kingdom. If you're looking for a way to get your mind around the China thing, these pros are worth listening to. And it's easy listening, too, since websites such as YouTube have a lot of snippets of interviews with them, caged from various financial news shows.

The three pros are Jim Rogers, Marc Faber, and Jim Chanos. Since I figure that many of you will be interested in what they have to say, I'll give an overview of them here.

All three of them are independent thinkers and straight-talkers,

which provides a welcome respite from the mealy-mouthed stuff we usually hear in this era of groupthink.

OK, now let's get to it. We'll start with Jim Rogers, a native of Alabama. He's probably the world's reigning expert in commodities, or is at least the most visible expert. He cut his chops working with George Soros. The two of them founded the Quantum fund in 1970. Rogers knows where the future is: Asia! Just like I've been telling you all these years, dear reader. He now lives in Singapore.

Rogers has written several books. One of my two favorites is *Hot Commodities*, which provides a great overview of basic commodities for the layman. I took my commodities broker exam last year (the FINRA Series 3, for you pros who follow such alphabet soup, or at least the U.S. breed of it), so I'm naturally interested in that stuff, but anyone with an interest in how the world works will also like this book.

My other favorite from Rogers is *A Bull in China*. This is, as you'll surmise from the title, about his optimistic outlook for China.

Rogers is the first guy I want to listen to if I'm going to put my money on the table.

Well, one of the first. The other one is Marc Faber, a Swiss-educated economist who lives in Chiang Mai, Thailand. This guy is extremely insightful, and apparently hasn't been corrupted by anyone getting their political hooks in him, which pretty rare for "economists" these days. He also publishes the *Gloom Boom & Doom Report*, a monthly newsletter for investors.

I've followed Faber since the '90s and Rogers since the '80s, which brings me to the third guy, Jim Chanos, who is a comparatively new name to me. He popped up on my radar when a *Saipan Tribune* reader sent me an email pondering the notion of

a real estate bubble in China.

There is a lot of talk about that now. Not that the entire world really cares about Chinese real estate. No, the bigger concern is what else might come out in the wash if a bubble bursts; this is when the wallpaper peels off the wall, and we see the capital structure behind it. That's why the U.S. is facing such trouble; it ain't a pretty sight behind that paper. Anyway, that email had a link to an interview with Chanos, who presented his case that China isn't only in a real estate bubble, but in a massive one at that.

As far as I know, Chanos is not an on-the-ground guy in Asia like Rogers and Faber. He runs a hedge fund in New York, and he's a short seller. Short sellers bet that stuff (e.g. stocks, bonds, commodities) are going to go down in price. Of course, anyone involved in investing or speculating can take short positions, even a humble man such as myself, so it's not as esoteric now as it used to sound.

But true professional short-traders like Chanos are financial gun slingers. They can be the first to smell trouble when something is amiss. You know, just like the showdowns in the old Western movies, where the wind suddenly stops and everything gets real quiet. Too quiet. A stranger rides into town, the twangy guitar music starts playing, then, BANG!, the real action starts, pardner.

I don't study the Chinese real estate market. So I've got nothing to say about it. But in general it's always good to keep council with some wise cynics, which is exactly what successful short sellers are. They don't have to be right to be instructive; they only have to be logical.

Well, such is my overview of three important pros. They're easy to find online, and the interviews that are posted as videos are typically only a few minutes long.

The 'Fatso Guy'

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc.



Recently, we had a client come to our office looking for the "Fatso Guy"—I kid you not. Our response, funnily enough, was, "Which one? The very big fatso guy, the little bit fatso guy, or the small fatso guy?" Again, true story—I can't make this stuff up. We even took it a little further and asked if maybe she wanted, "the skinny, but big-stomach fatso guy?" By the end of the inquiry, she decided that she came to see the "very big fatso guy," but that she'd settle for the "little-bit fatso guy," yours truly (and, for what it's worth, that puts me second in the fatso ranking for our office). I don't remember anymore what we met about, but I just can't forget how matter-of-fact she was about wanting to meet with the "fatso guy"; it still makes me chuckle to think about it.

BIBLE

From Page 10

new church was and wasn't.

But there was another challenge, as Shuger points out: To stay true to the great tradition, the older church—"really, the medieval Catholic tradition"—without harming the holiness or belovedness of the Scriptures.

So the KJV rested heavily on known and honored English translations of the previous century, especially the Bishops' Bible of 1572 and the Geneva Bible of 1577. The translators admit as much in a preface, saying their aim was "not to make of a bad one a good one ... but to make a good one better."

Three-quarters of the KJV is similar to the earlier English translations, more than 90 percent to the Geneva Bible. The translators respected those previous versions as holy things (even if some had been prosecuted): "The very meanest translation of the Bible in English, set forth by men of our profession ... containeth the word of God, nay, is the word of God."

The KJV was meant to be the official standard, to settle all disputes and end all arguments. As such, it was straightforward put on

Even in this age of hyper-sensitivity to the "weight issue," for some cultures being fat is not a matter of feelings, but a simple matter of fact—you're either fat, fatter, fattest or not. As one health professional pointed out to a friend of mine, "When it comes to your health, there's no such thing as borderline. You are diabetic, you have hypertension or you are obese, chronically or otherwise." Any notion of a fine line bordering the two sides is misleading and ultimately full of false hope. It's a cover up, if you will, of the truth—the goatee trying to mask a double chin or the baggy clothes hanging ever so gently over the Pillsbury folds. You can run and you can hide, but you can't escape from yourself. The sooner people take their emotional prejudices or low self-esteem off the issue and stop tip-toeing around it like a forbidden topic, the better the likelihood that we can address fatness for what it is, a potentially life-threatening condition of the body. By that, I don't just mean a threat in terms of life or death, but rather a threat in terms of the quality of one's life. The good news is that we know how to treat it. If you don't, then I'd recommend a stop-in at your local gym for a clue on how to get started.

There's some level of irony in a fat man preaching to the fat choir, but the point is being fat is not the problem. The problem is being fat and not doing anything about it or even worse, being fat and thinking that not talking about it helps you somehow or that it'll go away; we've all heard of the elephant in the room.

Advocates with the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy

pulpits throughout the land, and pretty much stayed there. But the arguments didn't end.

Perhaps the biggest clash is over this question: How do we read this—or any other—authoritative text?

Well before King James, some said Scripture was God's straight talk to humankind. These folks warned against any interpretation, disagreement or criticism. Others said Scripture was for guidance rather than direct commandment. Still others saw translation as ever-unfinished—and it has been, with several (and divergent) "revisions" of the Authorized Version over the years. Still others said that since Scriptures are always a product of human minds and hands, there is room for metaphor, poetry, analogy and parable.

Whole churches have arisen on the various approaches to this question. Allow me to speak broadly, but I'm on fairly firm ground when I say Southern Baptists, for example, adopt a strict, literal approach, and Roman Catholics a different approach.

This echoes a great human debate, between Nothing Goes and A Lot Goes. Many shameful things have been done and said in the names of both strictness and flex.

Today, we see that battle carried into our very government, as politicians, many of them religious, grapple over how to read our Constitution. Why does this debate so often lack civility? Because

will be closed; 55,000 teachers and staff would lose their jobs; 170,000 working families that need Head Start for childcare would be out of luck. And the Northern Marianas won't escape those cuts.

Not only does the Republican budget plan cut funding that helps those who are working, it also cuts training funds that help those looking for work. Job-training programs for those out of work or attaining new skills would be dramatically cut.

in many hearts it's a religious debate, driving to the foundations of authority and communal life.

We human beings often use our most beautiful things to poison our world. I hope we are not doing that now. Think of the KJV, created as a compromise between tradition and the needs of a young faith. Its creators, wary and weary of sectarian strife, hoped it could bring peace, lead the faithful to the God they sought.

It has done that in millions and millions of lives—and in some of the most sublime English ever written. But a particular way of reading it has been made into ground zero by those who can't stand others not belonging to their church. Or party.

Paul anticipated such strife and warned against it, in Galatians 5:14-15: "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another."

All religious people, and all members of all political parties, have a right to their sacred texts and their ways of reading them. All churches, and all political parties, have the right to seek new members. But all sides, in furthering their parties' aims, have forgotten love of neighbor. The violence of today's political discourse reminds us of how beautiful, how wise, and how little heeded the King James Bible is today.

Lastly, health care for the poor also takes a hit under the Republican proposal.

The GOP wants to replace the current Medicaid system with block grants to the States. It's ironic. Here we are in the Northern Mariana Islands trying desperately to get out of the block grant system for Medicaid—because it doesn't work—and the Republicans want to use the same system everywhere in America.

REPUBLICAN

From Page 10

posal and some of them may lose their grant altogether.

Head Start, too, will take a hit: 218,000 low-income children will no longer have access to Head Start; 16,000 Head Start classrooms

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

▲ 87° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 79
Palau Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 77
Yap Showers	▲ 84 ▾ 77
Chuuk Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▾ 79
Pohnpei Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▾ 75
Kosrae Sunny	▲ 89 ▾ 77
Majuro Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 70 ▾ 59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▾ 41
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 74 ▾ 68
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 83 ▾ 72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▾ 46
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 59 ▾ 45
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▾ 74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▾ 56
Miami	Sunny	▲ 88 ▾ 74
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▾ 41
Osaka	Showers	▲ 64 ▾ 50
Paris	Sunny	▲ 68 ▾ 47
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61 ▾ 50
Rome	Sunny	▲ 73 ▾ 53
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▾ 41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 55 ▾ 46
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▾ 39
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 63 ▾ 53
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 51 ▾ 44

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:26 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
9:31 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet
4:49 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet
11:46 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:30 PM	Today	9:03 AM	10:23 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:30 PM	Saturday	9:54 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	10:48 AM	
Monday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	11:45 AM	12:07 AM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Tuesday	12:42 PM	12:57 AM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:03 AM	10:23 PM	Today	9:03 AM	10:23 PM
Saturday	9:54 AM	11:16 PM	Saturday	9:54 AM	11:16 PM
Sunday	10:48 AM		Sunday	10:48 AM	
Monday	11:45 AM	12:07 AM	Monday	11:45 AM	12:07 AM
Tuesday	12:42 PM	12:57 AM	Tuesday	12:42 PM	12:57 AM

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

■ Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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■ Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950

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■ For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZT19	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZT20	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6				

Judge: Plea deal in domestic violence case too lenient

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman rejected yesterday a plea deal for a Department of Public Works employee accused of beating up his wife in three separate incidents, saying the terms were too lenient.

The plea agreement between the Office of the Attorney General and defendant John Mendiola Camacho recommended

nine days in prison, with credit for time served.

Wiseman noted that three separate cases have already been filed against 41-year-old Camacho, coinciding with

April being declared Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The case remains pending while both parties are still conducting further negotiations. Assistant attorney general Rus-

sell Lorfing appeared for the government; Joaquin Torres served as counsel for Camacho.

The Office of the Attorney General filed in June 2008 two separate cases charging Camacho with three assault and battery charges.

The OAG alleged that on June 22, 2007, Camacho punched the victim in the face, giving her two black eyes. The OAG alleged a similar attack on the victim on Nov. 3, 2007.

In December 2010, the OAG charged Camacho with three counts of child abuse, one count of assault and battery, one count of assault, and four counts of disturbing the peace.

Police reports state that Camacho attacked his wife again on Nov. 28, 2010, in the presence of their three children.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that it was the fourth time that the government had provided shelter to the wife because of Camacho's beating.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham last week stated that 55 percent of the new cases they handled in 2011 involves domestic violence.

Buckingham said this means that domestic violence is the biggest problem in the Commonwealth and that it is the OAG's priority in terms of prosecution. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

OPA denies protests of 2 losing bidders in PSS project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has denied the appeals filed by Megabyte and Marianas Wireless who both lost their bids on a network project of the Public School System.

In a seven-page decision issued yesterday to both protesters, Public Auditor Mike Pai said that OPA has determined that the school system did not err in awarding the contract to Pacific Star Communications. He urged PSS, however, to make its own determination of the company's tax liability and ensure that any monies owed the CNMI government are paid.

Megabyte and Marianas Wireless had protested the bid award, claiming that the contract was flawed and that PSS employed bias since the winning contractor did not have a business license at the time when it submitted its proposal.

OPA, however, sided with PSS on the matter, saying both PSS and the CNMI government, through the Division of Procurement and Supply, only require a valid business license at the time of the signing of—and beginning performance pursuant to—a contract.

"OPA agrees with this assertion, though sometimes a copy of a valid business license is required to be submitted with a bid or proposal. Requiring a business license only just prior to the signing of a contract or beginning performance pursuant to it encourages off-island bidders. While the encouragement of off-island bidders may displease on-island bidders, it does serve the interests of the government to obtain the best price possible," said Pai in his decision.

OPA also affirmed PSS decision that it didn't violate any procurement regulation when it awarded the contract to the same vendor who did a network health assessment, the PacStar.

"By virtue of having four qualified proposers for this RFP, the scope of work was clearly not written solely for the contractor who wrote the scope of work nor does it appear to have given that contractor a distinct advantage," said Pai.

Four other claims and appeals from the two companies on the same project were also denied, including the most serious allegation that PacStar violated CNMI law by not having a business license and is not paying

New trail opens today at Guam refuge

Today, April 8, 2011, the Guam National Wildlife Refuge and USS *Frank Cable* will be conducting a small dedication ceremony at the GNWR at 1pm to dedicate a new nature trail.

Over the course of seven months, USS *Frank Cable* sailors and family members have volunteered over 800 hours teaming with the GNWR in Dededo to clear a nature/management trail through the jungle. *Frank Cable*'s initial goals for the project were to do something of lasting significance on Guam, to benefit the people and environment of Guam, and to offer the sailors an opportunity to see a portion of the island and its ecology that they otherwise would have not had the opportunity.

In addition to meeting these goals, we have completed a trail that will provide access to the native jungle and 500-year-old coconut grove. The trail will also provide access for those wishing to visit historical and culturally significant sites, as well as a glimpse of one of the last remaining pieces of native jungle.

Last year, there were over 100,000 visitors to GNWR with an estimated 50 percent being locals and military fami-

corresponding tax liabilities.

"This is the most serious allegation raised by the appellants. PSS has acknowledged the issue and has replied that the winning contractor is 'in the process of evaluating tax liability' with outside tax counsel. If it is determined

that there is tax liability on the network health assessment contract, it will remit payment on taxes owed to the CNMI government," added OPA.

The PSS project is the network design and installation of routing and switching equipment for the school system.

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New Australian ambassador calls on Fitial

Martin Quinn, Australia's new ambassador for the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands, arrived on Saipan yesterday to pay a courtesy visit to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

This is Ambassador Quinn's first visit to the Commonwealth and he noted that he was very much impressed with the pristine beauty of the islands and hospitality of the people.

His visit comes as a follow-



Martin Quinn, Australia's new Ambassador for the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands, pays a courtesy visit to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Capital Hill yesterday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

up to the recent visit of Richard Marles, Parliamentary Secretary for Pacific Island Affairs.

While the ambassador was only here for the day, he has pledged a future visit to the islands with his wife and children.

During his brief stay here, Quinn is expected to tour some of the islands hotels and the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Fitial welcomed Quinn and noted that his predecessor, former ambassador Susan Cox, was a great friend to the CNMI during her tour of duty.

"I am very pleased to meet Ambassador Quinn as we seek to continue the warm friendship we have established with the Australian government," said Fitial.

The governor told Quinn that it is important to continue the spirit of unity among the Pacific islands so that the jurisdictions can maximize regional collaboration efforts. Fitial also sought Quinn's support for more Australian tourists and investors to consider the Northern Mariana Islands.

Quinn expressed that he plans to meet with Australian air service providers to look into the possibility of establishing flight service to the CNMI. (*Office of the Governor*)

Marriage Encounter Weekend this April

The World Wide Marriage Encounter program—a program intended to be a worldwide enrichment program for marriages—is providing another weekend experience to 30 couples at the Aqua Resort Club, Saipan this April 8-10, 2011.

"We encourage all married couples to consider the Marriage Encounter program. This is worth your marriage as many have seen and attribute their success to the weekends and more," said Fr. Ike Ayuyu. "The ME program has been a pillar to establishing better and greater marriages between husband and wife. Our progress has motivated married couples to see past their flaws, past blames, and focus on what is there, real, loving, caring while keeping faith to guide and lead their marriages."

"This Spring Marriage Encounter weekend is yet another successful movement for our faith and our marriages. Our community, led by Wayne and Boni Pangalinan have unselfishly committed time and resources to making this happen for others to see the value it provides," said Vince and Hilma Castro, Ecclesial Couple for Marriage Encounter.

The CNMI WWME and its community host two weekends each year—in spring and fall. The next fall weekend will be held in October and announcement will be made as the recruiting begins. (*PR*)

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Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Eye Institute donates to Japan relief efforts

Marianas Eye Institute has contributed \$5,000 to the American Red Cross-Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief Fund.

"We are happy to provide this donation to support families affected by the recent disaster in Japan," said Emily Taitano Marianas Eye Institute community outreach coordinator.

"Marianas Eye Institute has a long history of supporting community programs and we are honored to again to have their generous support to help those in need," said John D. Guerrero, board chairman of the NMI Red Cross Chapter.

Marianas Eye Institute is the leading eye care center in Micronesia and has been serving the people of the CNMI and the region since 1998. (PR)



Marianas Eye Institute physicians and staff present a \$5,000 check to officials of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter at the Institute's office.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thai House pledges donation to Japan

Thai House in Garapan will be donating \$1 from each guest bill to the Japanese Red Cross for earthquake and tsunami relief.

"Everyone in the community is trying to support the relief efforts, and this is a small way we can help those in need," said general manager Jack Hudak.

Thai House is the first Thai restaurant on Saipan and has been serving the local and tourist community for the past 17 years.

For more information about Thai House, call 235-8424. To make a donation, call the Red Cross at 234-3459.

The Red Cross has very high standards for accountability and can ensure that your donation will be used in a way that provides the most impact for those in need. Donations will be used to support those affected by the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan and throughout the Pacific. Donations can be made at the NMI Chapter office on Airport Road or on line by going to www.redcross.org. Checks should be made out to the American Red Cross-Japan Earthquake Relief. (PR)



How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch 4 to 7 Months

- Seems very stiff, with tight muscles
- Head still flops back when body is pulled to a sitting position
- Does not like to cuddle
- Shows no affection for the person who cares for him or her
- Doesn't seem to enjoy being around people
- Persistent tearing, eye drainage, or sensitivity to light
- Does not respond to sounds around him or her
- Has difficulty getting objects to mouth
- Does not roll over in either direction (front to back or back to front) by 5 months
- Seems impossible to comfort at night after 5 months
- Cannot sit with help by 6 months
- Does not laugh or make squealing sounds by 6 months
- Does not actively reach for objects by 6 to 7 months
- Does not follow objects with both eyes at near (1 foot) and far (6 feet) ranges by 7 months
- Does not bear weight on legs by 7 months
- Does not try to attract attention through actions by 7 months
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC) at
664-4830

for a **FREE** developmental screening!



Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

CERTIFIED Used Cars

DEALS OF THE WEEK



2007 Nissan Versa

STOCK # 7L360616

\$11,995⁰⁰



2004 Nissan Pathfinder SE 4WD

STOCK # 4W915451

\$14,995⁰⁰



2005 Ford Expedition Eddie Bauer

STOCK # 5LA47104

\$21,995⁰⁰



2006 Honda Civic

STOCK # 6L010224

\$11,995⁰⁰*



2005 Ford Five Hundred SE

STOCK # 5G156167

\$11,995⁰⁰*



2005 Ford Five Hundred SEL

STOCK # 5G103486

\$12,995⁰⁰*



2006 Nissan Sentra SE

STOCK # 6L514169

\$11,995⁰⁰*



2007 Kia Sportage LX 2WD

STOCK # 77353764

\$13,995⁰⁰*



2004 Honda Accord LX

STOCK # 4L024265

\$13,995⁰⁰*



2007 Ford Fusion SEL

STOCK # 7R100604

\$15,995⁰⁰*



2008 Kia Sedona LX

STOCK # 86261071

\$17,995⁰⁰*



2005 Nissan Frontier SE 4WD

STOCK # 5C424929

\$16,995⁰⁰*



Joseph (Jay) Cabrera
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562



2009 Honda Accord LX-P

STOCK # 9A120062

\$22,995⁰⁰*



2010 Nissan Frontier SE 4WD

STOCK # AC407263

\$29,995⁰⁰*

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. - FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply •
On approved credit • See dealer for details • While supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.



Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

TSL DONATION

TSL Foundation donates \$500 worth of products to benefit the 2nd Annual Tinian Mayor's Perpetual Golf Tournament. From left, Foundation manager Ed Arriola, Jr., Sen. Jude Hofsneider, TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz, Sen. Henry San Nicolas, Tinian Rep. Trenton Conner, and Fiesta Resort Saipan F&B manager Das Krishnan.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC set to host 2nd Health Awareness Fair on April 16

The Northern Marianas College is inviting the community to the 2nd Annual NMC Health Awareness Fair on Saturday, April 16, 2011, from 8am to 12pm at the NMC Gym Field.

The Fair is co-sponsored and coordinated by the NMC Nursing Club and the Associated Students of NMC with support from the College Access Challenge Project, Proa Music Society, and volunteers from the NMC community.

"Our goal for this fair is to increase health awareness, to emphasize the importance of physical activity and eating healthy amongst our NMC students and people in the community," said NMC Nursing Club president Mindy Park. "This year's theme is 'Eat healthy and Live Healthy.'"

The NMC Nursing Club members will be offering free health screenings for blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, and cholesterol.

"By being involved in these health screenings, the NMC Nursing Club will be able to gauge the needs of the community in terms of health awareness," said Park. "This will also give our nursing students the opportunity to practice their nursing skills by providing health education."

Members in the community can also learn about the vari-

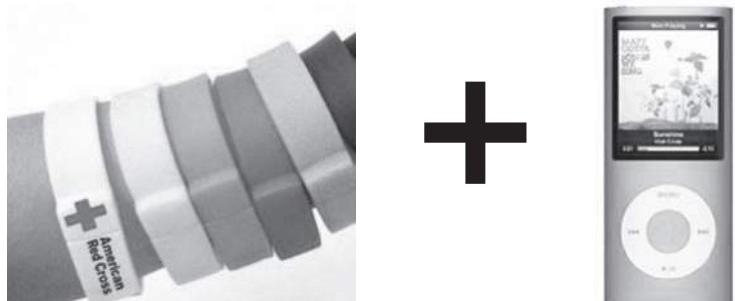
ous health services programs that include the Women Infants and Children program, which provides nutritional assistant to women and children under the age of 5.

The CNMI Diabetes Prevention Program, the Domestic Violence Coalition, Hardt Eye Clinic, the Comprehensive Cancer Control program, and the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program will also provide different health teachings. The Department of Public Health will also be providing free HIV Rapid Tests, as well as information on the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

The NMC Cooperative Research Education and Extension Service's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program will also be present to provide nutritional guidance and meal planning, especially for families with young children. The program also teaches other useful skills like how to shop wisely for food, properly store food, and prepare nutritious meals.

In addition to health education, the Fair will also feature the Battle of the PROAs, which is a multi-sport battle of the sexes competition featuring NMC faculty, staff, and students. This year's Battle includes volleyball, basketball, and an obstacle course. (NMC)

All Walkers who raise \$75.00 on their pledge form



Will receive a 1 GB USB flash drive Bracelet plus a 1GB MP3 Player



25th NMI RED CROSS WALKATHON

Start Time: 6:00am Location: 4-H building-Susupe

April 9th, 2011

Lots of fun for the whole family

A \$15.00 donation receives a t-shirt

Free Sandwich and refreshments for walkers

DPH Health Fair ★ Blood Pressure Checks

Carnival Games ★ Face Painting

Petting Zoo ★ DPS-Fire big truck show

For more information on this promotion, please contact your school Walkathon coordinator or the Red Cross Chapter office at 234-3459

Premier Sponsors



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 23rd birthday to LJ Reyes! We hope you have a great one, we love you and wish for many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your honey and your kids and the entire family.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Neyshia Balbin, who is celebrating her day today, April 8, 2011. Greetings come from L.J. and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 7th birthday to Taliyah S. Bocago. You are growing quickly and into a very talented, intelligent, thoughtful girl. We love you so much, enjoy your day, and may you have many more birthdays to come. Love always, Mommy, Nasia, Junior, and your entire Sablan and Bocago family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Carroll ends pastoral term at Immanuel United Methodist Church

Saipan's Immanuel United Methodist Church, which saw many new exciting steps this past year, is taking its biggest one yet: not having a pastor in charge.

Church pastor Millie Carroll recently completed her pastoral term at IUMC and has already left the island, leaving in her stead Church Council chair Jaime Martinez to lead the flock.

"Church Council chair Jaime Martinez is an excellent leader in church function and in worship. He first, and then others recently began doing the worship services and I only helped if asked," said Carroll in a statement.

For several years now, the church has listed on its bulletin not only the pastor's name but also the whole congregation as ministers. Carroll said that meant each member had a responsibility to minister to each other, to family, to neighbors, to the wider world.

"So really, we are just taking the responsibility we already have had another step forward. And Methodism began with lay people having the major responsibility," said Lay Leader Losana Rogoyawa.

Carroll added: "Although I am going to miss Saipan terribly, I know IUMC members are very, very capable. And, as in the very early Methodist Church, are discovering abilities they didn't even know they had. Isn't that what God would want—for us to discover not only who we are now but what we can become?"

"Our last service together was such an example of that. Church Council chair Martinez summed it up thus: "IUMC may be a small congregation but we make up for it with a big heart and love of God. So as we move forward with the departure of Pastor Millie who will be deeply missed, we thank God for what we currently have and trust that God will send a pastor. Our district superintendent,

A joyous emphasis on God's faithfulness, and our needing to be faithful to God in this new step. And we celebrated that through dance. The children, some who'd earlier said they didn't want to dance, did so to *Jesus Loves Me*. Teens Serafina Rogoyawa and Grace Dowez and I praised God through dancing *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. Annie Tumamao danced the communion hymn *Fill My Cup Lord*. Annie sang the Invitation to Communion while I danced it. Serafina danced beautifully and both Grace and Annie found new talents—not dancing as taught, but dancing what the words meant to them."

Sunday School superintendent Pam Carhill said: "In this big step in not having a pastor in charge, the children still know they will continue to have meaningful Sunday mornings. Although she's already busy keeping perfect church financial records, Sol Corpuz and I share the major responsibility for Sunday School and Bible lessons through songs, crafts, and games to support the Bible lessons. The 'Time With the Kids' part of the worship services seems to be the adults' as well as the children's favorite part."

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BRYAN JONES

While Grace Dowez receives Holy Communion, 3-year-old Semisi Paogo Jr. (not seen) rush forward for his communion blessing. From left, his mother, Topie Paongo telling him to wait his turn, Grace Dowez, Pastor Millie Carroll, and assisting with serving communion, Church Council chair Jaime Martinez and Lay Leader Losana Rogoyawa.

Rev. Tom Choi, will be advising from Hawaii. Members of Guam's United Methodist Church and Pastor Lee Myung-Taek from Immanuel Methodist Church (Korean speaking) will assist as needed. And we want to grow even closer in our relationship with St. Paul's Episcopal Church."

Immanuel United Methodist Church in Chalan Kanoa tries to follow The United Methodist motto: "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." All are welcome at IUMC's worship services and children's Sunday School 9am. IUMC is on Chalan Kanoa Drive (east of Town Center and Beach Road, near Mt. Carmel Cathedral.) For further information, call 322-6158. (PR)

APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

SPRING PROMOTION
UNTIL APRIL 30, 2011 (FOR 1 YEAR CONTRACT)

GILL BLAS CONDOMINIUM

Location	: GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark	: Where 747 Dining & Bar is situated
Price	: 1 BEDROOM \$500.00 From \$500.00~
Features	: 2 BEDROOMS \$650.00 From \$650.00~



PASTEL INN APARTMENT

Location	: SAN JOSE, SAIPAN
Landmark	: Right besides Roshi's Store
Price	: STUDIO TYPE \$250.00 From \$250.00~
Features	: 2 BEDROOMS \$400.00 From \$400.00~



SEDA BLANCA APARTMENT

Location	: GARAPAN, SAIPAN
Landmark	: Close to 747 Dining & Bar
Room type	: STUDIO-TYPE, and 1 BEDROOM
Price	: \$350.00 From \$350.00~



ANAKS OCEAN VIEW HILL SAIPAN

Location	: PUERTO RICO, SAIPAN
Landmark	: Close to Bank of Hawaii
Room type	: 2 BEDROOMS AND 3 BEDROOMS
Price	: \$1,200.00 From \$1,200.00~



YOUNGS BUILDING

Location	: MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN
Landmark	: Where Pacific Quick Print is situated
Area	: 760 SQ. FT. (2ND FLOOR ONLY)
Price	: \$500.00~



We also accommodate Daily, Weekly or Monthly basis.

For further details: You can visit ATOM's CO., LTD. office, located in Garapan, Saipan. Our office hour is 9:00 am to 6:00 pm on weekdays and 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm on weekends. You can also contact us thru phone at 233-8880 or send us an e-mail at atoms@pticom.com

ATOM'S
MANAGEMENT & CONSULTING
233-8880

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Early class dismissal at SSHS

Saipan Southern High School's Term 3 report cards are scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, April 14, 2011, from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the counseling office. All students will be released at 1pm. (PR)

MCS Class of '76 meeting set

There will be a meeting for all Mount Carmel School graduates of 1976 on April 9, 2011, at 6pm, at the Minachom Attdao Pavilion. For more information, call Martin Borja Ada at (670)789-8867 or email at martinada61@yahoo.com. (PR)

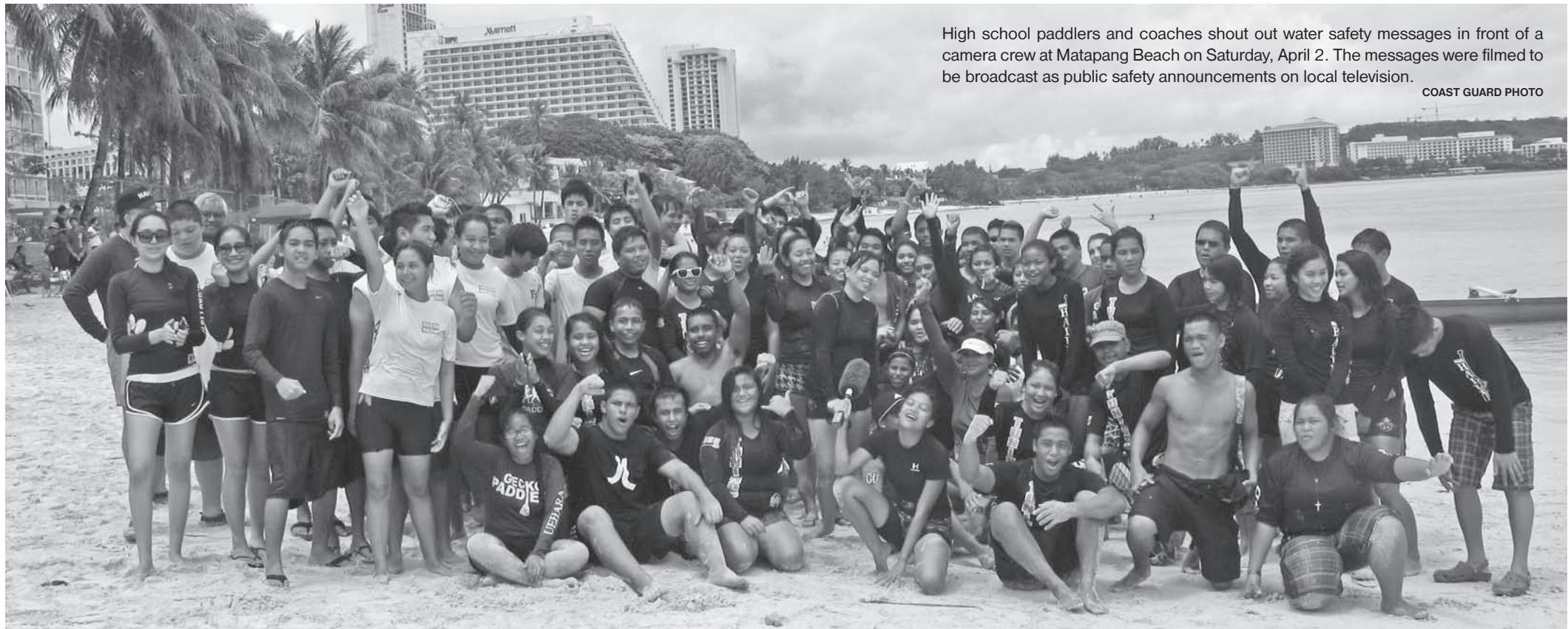
GOP chairman on Marianas Agupa tomorrow

This Saturday, April 9, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature Juan I. Tenorio, GOP chairman. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the local Republican Party's relationship with the U.S. Republican National Committee and the Republican control U.S. Congress in order to extend more financial assistance to the CNMI.

The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. It will feature reports by former mayor Joseph S. Inos, Rota commentator Thomas D. Mendiola, and Tinian commentator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. (PR)

Register for the UOG Sustainability Conference

The University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability hosts the Island Sustainability Conference, April 19-20, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Guam, Tumon. This year's theme is "Guam in 2050 – Developing our Sustainable Future: What is the Cost of Doing Nothing?" The conference will consist of five different tracks: Modeling Sustainable Energy Management; Replicable & Appropriate Technical Innovations; Policy Implementation; Sustainable Environments and Conservation of our Natural Environment. The cost of the conference is \$50. Seating is limited. To register visit www.uog.edu/islandsustainability. (UoG)



High school paddlers and coaches shout out water safety messages in front of a camera crew at Matapang Beach on Saturday, April 2. The messages were filmed to be broadcast as public safety announcements on local television.

COAST GUARD PHOTO

USCG, others join forces to promote water safety

GUAM—U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and other safety focused agencies banded together to host “Get Your Feet Wet” water safety day at Matapang Beach on Saturday in concert with the opening day of the high school paddle racing season. Hundreds of young paddlers,

coaches, and families attended and supported the cause while enjoying the races.

Guam Police Department Marine Patrol Division, Guam Fire Rescue, Guam Parks and Recreation, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, National Weather Service, Marianas Pad-

dlesports Racing Association, and Guam Kayak and Canoe Federation were on hand to distribute safety messages to the public at the opening event for the 2011 Independent Interscholastic Athletic Association of Guam/Guam Kayak and Canoe Federation High



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP11-GOV-065

A/E DESIGN OF THE GARAPAN WATER QUALITY RESTORATION

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, “Commonwealth”) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide the A/E Design of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The complete Scope of Work for the A/E services required will be available on Friday, March 18, 2011, at the Governor’s CIP Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan CNMI. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US \$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A non-mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor’s Conference Room, Capitol Hill at 2:00 PM ChST, Tuesday, March 29, 2011. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m. ChST March 31, 2011.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed fifty (50) pages in length, inclusive of resumes and previous project descriptions. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. Qualifications and Background of the Company(s) and proposed assigned personnel | - 25% |
| 2. Past experience of the consultant on design of similar projects | - 25% |
| 3. Project Approach and Schedule for Completion | - 25% |
| 4. Demonstrated capability of ability to perform the work required | - 25% |
| 5. Proposed Costs to perform the A/E design work | - 0% |

Performance time for completion of the A/E design is One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three ranked (3) firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, will be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “RFP11-GOV-065, A/E Design of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration Project”. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 19, 2011. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, April 19, 2011, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@picom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, April 19, 2011, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than April 28, 2011 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI government.

/S/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor

/S/ Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply



COAST GUARD PHOTO

Capt. Thomas M. Sparks, commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam, receives a Guam Legislature Resolution from Sen. Ben Pangelinan, on Saturday at Matapang Beach. Also pictured are members of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Guam Flotilla, from left: Bob Sajnovsky, Jack Ary, Hilda Duncan, and Joe Torres.

School Paddling Season.

Safety experts from various public agencies and paddlers and paddle coaches were filmed

by Joint Region Marianas delivering public safety announcements to be aired on local television.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP11-DPW/ED-076**

SUBMISSION: MAY 10, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.
**“SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PV EQUIPMENT
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION”**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE ON APRIL 09, 2011 AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, THIRD (3RD) FLOOR, MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA #315, SUSUE, SAIPAN OR REQUESTED VIA EMAIL TO solar_pv@recovery.gov.mp DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY WALK-THROUGH IS SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 25, 2011. THE SAIPAN WALK-THROUGH WILL BE HELD STARTING AT THE BOARD OF PAROLE – BLDG #1216.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO ALFREDA CAMACHO, OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD AT alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp OR FAXED TO (670) 234-3016 NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, APRIL 29, 2011.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT APPLICABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLON
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ THELMA B. INOS
DIRECTOR, ENERGY DIVISION

/s/ MICHAEL J. ADA
CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)**

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 3, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 AM
**NMHC IFB 2011-005
“NMHC TELEPHONE SYSTEM UPGRADE”**

Proposal packets will be available on April 11, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 9:00 a.m. on April 26, 2011, at the NMHC Office, Garapan, Saipan.

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/
Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Capt. Thomas M. Sparks, commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam, said the event was the start of an ongoing effort, “Water safety clinics such as we see here today are the impetus for future, ongoing Water Safety Workshops that we hope our Water Safety Committee will be able to carry on in the community. If these events can accomplish lives saved and prevent risky and costly search and rescue efforts, then we consider it time well spent.”

Sen. Ben Pangelinan also was on hand to present Guam Legislature Resolution number 61-31, commending the combined effort of all the agencies and to support the formation of a Water Safety Committee composed of safety experts from each of the governmental agencies and youth paddle clubs.

The Coast Guard is focused on safety and security of the nation’s waterways. The public is asked to use caution when boating and report all marine emergencies by immediately calling local emergency responders at 911 and the Coast Guard Sector Guam Command Center on VHF-FM channel 16 or by phone at 671-564-USCG. (USCG)



NMC's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society inducts 20 members

The Northern Marianas College Beta Lambda Psi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society celebrated the induction of 20 new members into the Society on Saturday, March 26.

Family, friends, NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, faculty, and PTK members joined in the festivities at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret to honor the new inductees.

In order to qualify for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, students must distinguish themselves by maintaining a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, in addition to serving and contributing to our Commonwealth through various community service and leadership activities.

The 13 newest full members include students from the business, criminal justice, education, nursing, and liberal arts majors: Candelaria Aldan, Sunny Aldan, Ronalyn Atienza, Querlain Blas, Hazel Marie Doctor, Raphael Dowai, Jennie Duenas, Sung Hoon Ham, Joy Lacorte, Beatrice Mesngon, Arisha Nishimura, Richard Pizarro, and Joel Tudela.

Also welcomed into the chapter were seven new provisional members: Rachelle Alturas, Jalayne Benavente, Ritalina Chipwelong, Karen Dela Cruz, Kristine Dequito, Derek Leung, and Nisha Shrestha.

The induction ceremony was carried out by the current PTK officers president Glenn Songcuan,

uan, vice president Mindy Park, recording secretary Janel Pangelinan, Membership Secretary Dyenina Diaz, public relations officer Mightee Kim, and faculty adviser Larry Lee.

NMC's director of Learning Communities, Student Engagement, and First-Year Experience, Geri Willis, was the keynote speaker for the event, and she inspired the audience with a very motivating keynote address. The formal induction ceremony was followed by a delicious buffet dinner.

An international organization, Phi Theta Kappa has recognized academic excellence, leadership, and service in two-year colleges since 1918. It is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 1.5 million members and 1,200 chapters located in the 50 United States, U.S. territories, Canada, and Germany.

Phi Theta Kappa's mission is two-fold: (1) to recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students; and (2) to provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

For additional information about the NMC chapter, its membership, or activities, contact chapter president Glenn Songcuan, or adviser Larry Lee for further information. (NMC)

No radioactivity detected in Guam

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has posted data from 10 RadNet air monitor filters, including the one on Guam. An analysis of these monitors has detected no traces of isotopes consistent with those released from the damaged nuclear reactors in Japan. The EPA continues to conduct additional analysis to identify specific isotopes present in the filters.

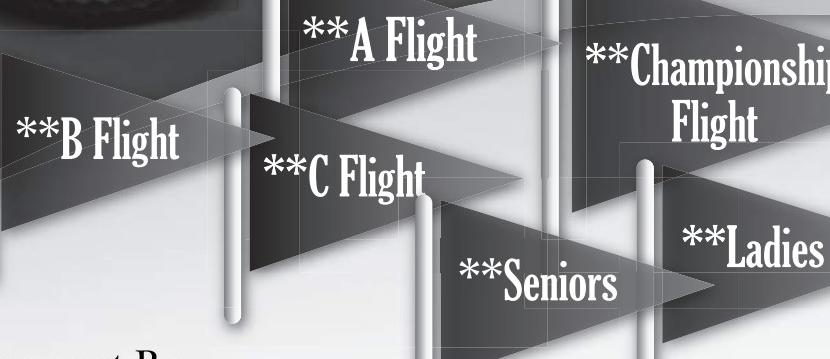
Analyses of this batch of filter data identified low levels of uranium consistent with natural levels typically seen in the

NMC Phi Theta Kappa Spring 2011 inductees, members, adviser, keynote speaker Geri Willis, and interim president Lorraine Cabrera following their recent induction ceremony on March 26, 2011, at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret.

Mount Carmel School 9th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Laolao Bay West Course, May 21, 2011

Registration Time: 06:30 a.m. Tee Time: 07:30 a.m.



Payment By

May 20, 2011 is \$85.00

On Site Payment: \$100.00

(includes Green/Cart fees, prize & banquet)

Ticket/registration can be purchased from the following individuals:

Kin DelaCruz: 287-5788

Margaret C. DelaCruz: 235-1251

Louise Concepcion: 235-1285

Awards and Banquet will be held immediately following the tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort grounds.

For more information, you may call any of the individuals listed above. You may also fax your registration to Mount Carmel School at 235-4751.

Tournament sponsored by the

Mount Carmel School

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TEL. NO. _____

CLUB AFFILIATION _____ HANDICAP: _____

FLIGHT CATEGORIES:

- Championship Flight
 C Flight

- A Flight
 Seniors

- B Flight
 Ladies

Business

3 task orders awarded for Guam military buildup

GUAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded three task orders yesterday under previously awarded multiple award construction contracts in support of the Guam military buildup effort. Two of the task orders were awarded to small businesses.

A \$73 million firm-fixed-price task order was awarded to Tutor Perini Corp. of Sylmar, Calif., under the Guam design build multiple award construction contract for construction of an aircraft parking apron at Andersen Air Force Base. Known as the North Ramp parking project, the work provides construction of an

MV-22 aircraft concrete parking apron, hot mix asphalt apron replacement pavement, aircraft rinse facility, aircraft wash-rack facility, three direct fueling stations and a tow-way with retaining wall. Work is expected to be completed by July 2013.

A \$9.1 million firm-fixed-price task order was awarded to Guam Pacific International LLC, a local small business of Barrigada, Guam, under a small business multiple award construction contract for construction of water and wastewater utility services in the North Ramp area of Andersen Air Force Base. Known as the North Ramp utilities project, the work to be performed provides potable water distribution system, gravity sewer collection, and sewer

force main that extends service to the North Ramp area and connects to the existing gravity sewer system. The system includes fire hydrants, valves, sewer manholes, air/vacuum valves, wastewater metering, lift stations, and standby power generation. Work is expected to be completed by January 2013.

A \$5.3 million firm-fixed-price task order was awarded to Overland Corp., a small business of Ardmore, Okla., under a design build multiple award construction contract for construction of a new communication duct bank at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. The work to be performed provides a new communication duct bank with fiber-optic cable and telephone cable to replace the existing

communication duct bank.

"These projects at Andersen Air Force Base North Ramp provide necessary support for Marine Corps aviation operations," said Joseph Ludovici, director, Joint Guam Program Office. "The award of these contracts demonstrates our commitment to partnering with small businesses to execute the military buildup and deliver capabilities required by the relocation of Marine Corps forces."

Task Orders Awarded

In accordance with the Programmatic Agreement (PA), the public has an opportunity to provide comments on the identification and evaluation of historic properties that may be affected during Guam mili-

tary buildup construction. The Navy has posted its assessment of impacts to historic properties associated with construction of the North Ramp parking and utilities projects on NAVFAC Pacific's Cultural Resources Information website at www.bit.ly/NAVFAC-GuamPA. Public comments on the assessment of these projects will be accepted through May 14, 2011.

"Our team has been working diligently to award these projects, which allow us to continue moving forward on the Guam military buildup effort," said Capt. Peter Lynch, commanding officer of NAVFAC Marianas. "The PA facilitates a smooth process that protects historic properties on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands and allows design work to proceed simultaneously. Construction will not begin until we have completed the processes outlined in the PA." (NAVFAC)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

FAA says another controller went to sleep on job

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Aviation Administration has uncovered a second incident of an air traffic controller sleeping on the job, but in this case the napping was deliberate. "(I am) disappointed to say we did find another incident ... just one," FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt told a hearing of the House Appropriations Committee's transportation subcommittee. "We are in the process of disciplinary hearings that will terminate this employee ... This was a willful violation," Babbitt said. The controller went to sleep for five hours on Feb. 19 during the midnight shift at McGhee Tyson Airport in Knoxville, Tenn., FAA said in a statement released after the hearing.

Portugal seeks bailout, Europe debt crisis spreads

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—Portugal asked for a bailout Wednesday to relieve its crushing debt, joining Greece and Ireland by becoming the third eurozone nation to seek outside help amid a bruising financial crisis.

Prime Minister Jose Socrates went on national television to announce that Portugal must take international assistance to save its rapidly deteriorating economy, after months of insisting that he would not ask for a bailout.

Socrates said his caretaker government asked "for financial help, to ensure financing for our country, for our financial system and for our economy."

He did not say how much Portugal would seek, but analysts have predicted Portugal

will need up to euro80 billion (\$114 billion). That amount is bearable for Europe's finances unless other nations—notably Spain—end up asking for help.

Some economists are scaling back their estimates for growth this year, in part because flat wages have left households struggling to pay higher gasoline prices.

Oil has topped \$108 a barrel, the highest price since 2008. Regular unleaded gasoline now goes for an average \$3.69 a gal-

lon, according to AAA's daily fuel gauge survey, up 86 cents from a year ago.

The higher costs have been driven by unrest in Libya and other oil-producing Middle East countries, along with rising energy demand from a strengthening U.S. economy.

Airlines, shipping companies and other U.S. businesses have been squeezed. The rising prices are further straining an economy struggling with high unemploy-

Banks from Spain to Germany are heavily exposed to the possibility of a Portuguese default, which would threaten the very existence of the zone.

Rising oil prices beginning to hurt US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just when companies have finally stepped up hiring, rising oil prices are threatening to halt the U.S. economy's gains.

The higher costs have been driven by unrest in Libya and other oil-producing Middle East countries, along with rising energy demand from a strengthening U.S. economy.

Airlines, shipping companies and other U.S. businesses have been squeezed. The rising prices are further straining an economy struggling with high unemploy-

ment and a depressed housing market.

"The surge in oil prices since the end of last year is already doing significant damage to the economy," says Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics.

Unlike other kinds of consumer spending, gasoline purchases provide less benefit for the U.S. economy. About half the revenue flows to oil exporting countries like Saudi Arabia and Canada, though U.S. oil companies and gasoline retailers also benefit.

For consumers, more expensive energy siphons away money that would otherwise be used for household purchases, from cars and furniture to clothing and vacations.

High energy prices are "putting a drain on consumer budgets," says James Hamilton at the University of California, San Diego. "To the extent they're having to spend more on gasoline, they have to make cutbacks elsewhere."

Two-thirds of Americans say they expect rising gasoline prices to cause hardship for them or their families in the next six months, according to a new Associated Press-GfK Poll. The telephone poll conducted March 24-28 had a sampling error margin of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

Seventy-one percent say they're cutting back on other expenses to make up for higher pump prices. Sixty-four percent say they're driving less. And 53 percent say they're changing vacation plans to stay closer to home.

Southwest Airlines patching hole in jet in Ariz.

PHOENIX (AP)—Southwest Airlines mechanics on Wednesday were patching a large hole in a Boeing 737 that made an emergency landing in southwestern Arizona last week, but the company won't say when or if it will be back in service. The plane has been sitting on the tarmac at a military base in Yuma, Ariz., since Friday. That's when a hole tore open in the top of the plane carrying 118 people on a flight from Phoenix to Sacramento and pilots scrambled to get it back on the ground. No serious injuries were reported, but passengers and crew had to breathe through oxygen masks to keep from passing out while the pilots brought it down to below 10,000 feet.

Unemployment falls in three-quarters of US cities

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment rates are falling in most metro areas across the country, suggesting that recent nationwide gains in hiring are widespread and not limited to a few healthy regions. More than three-quarters of the nation's 372 largest metro areas reported lower unemployment rates in February than the previous month, the Labor Department said Wednesday. That's the most to report a decline since September. And more than 300 areas added jobs in February compared to the previous month. That's a much better showing than January, when most metro areas lost jobs.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV
vs.	
FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO, Defendants.	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 9th day of March, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to Defendants directing the sale of the premises, hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 014 D 09, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 014 D 01, the original of which was recorded on December 3, 1976 as Document No. 5691 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

- Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - To reject any and all bids.
- Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
- Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
- Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
- Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MELANIE M. PELEGRINO-RONCALES, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0173-FCD
versus	SUMMONS
NESTOR B. RONCALES, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.
YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe , Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.
By order of the above Court:
Dated this 1st day of April, 2010
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

EVELYN G. ABABA-LINA, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0526-FCD
versus	SUMMONS
AMELITO E. LINA, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.
YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe , Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.
If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.
By order of the above Court:
Dated this 14th day of October, 2010
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Edward Buckingham
Attorney General
David Lochabay
Assistant Attorney General
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
Hon. Juan A. Sablan Mem. Bldg., 2nd Fl.
Caller Box 10007 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-2341
Fax: (670) 664-2349

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE	CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0080
Calvin Barnhart	NOTICE OF HEARING

Hearing Date: April 26, 2011
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja

Please take notice that a hearing will be held in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Room 205, House of Justice, Beach Rd., Saipan, CNMI, at 1:30 p.m., on April 26, 2011, concerning the Probate of Wills and Petition for Letters of Administration for the Estate of Decedent Calvin Barnhart, signed on March 17, 2011.
Respectfully Submitted,

Dated this 17th day of March, 2011.

/s/ David Lochabay
David Lochabay, Bar No. F0305
Asst. Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General

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Nation

Obama: Progress, but no deal to avert shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—With time growing short, President Barack Obama said Wednesday night that he remains confident that a government shutdown can be avoided this weekend if negotiators can build on constructive talks held at the White House.

Differences remain despite the progress, but Obama announced that talks would continue through the night in hopes of avoiding a government shutdown this weekend.

"It's going to require a sufficient sense of urgency," Obama said, "to complete a deal and get

it passed and avert a shutdown."

Obama emerged before reporters to declare his differences with the House Republicans were narrowing but that both sides were still stuck in an impasse.

"I thought the meetings were frank, they were constructive, and what they did was narrow the issues and clarify the issues that are still outstanding,"

Obama said. "I remain confident that if we're serious about getting something done, we should be able to complete a deal and get it passed and avert a shutdown. But it's going to require a sufficient sense of urgency from all parties involved."

After the White House session, Boehner said, "We did have a productive conversation

this evening. We do have some honest differences, but I do think we made some progress. But I want to reiterate: There is no agreement on a number and there's no agreement on the policy matters. But there's an attempt on both sides to continue to work together to try to resolve this."

The pressure built Wednesday as Boehner announced House

Republicans would approve a stopgap spending bill blending \$12 billion in new domestic spending cuts with the full-year Pentagon budget as the price for keeping the government open for another week.

Boehner's move appeared aimed at shifting political blame if a shutdown occurs, but it angered Democrats who felt that talks were progressing.

Colorado police pepper-spray misbehaving boy, 8

When they couldn't calm him down, one squirted Aidan with pepper spray. He blocked it with the cardboard box.

A second squirt hit the youngster in the side of the head, and down he went, according to an account of the Feb. 22 standoff in a police report first obtained by KUSA-TV.

Aidan and his mother went on national talk shows on Wednesday to say using pepper spray on an unruly 8-year-old was too much.

Police and officials at Glen-non Heights Elementary in Lakewood, Colo., say it could've been worse.



President Barack Obama speaks to reporters at the White House in Washington after meeting with House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., regarding the budget and possible government shutdown, Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

White House says shutdown will delay payroll of troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration warned Wednesday that a federal shutdown would undermine the economic recovery, delay pay to U.S. troops fighting in three wars, slow the processing of tax returns and limit small business loans and government-backed mortgages during peak home buying season.

The dire message, delivered two days before the federal government's spending authority expires, appeared aimed at jolting congressional Republicans into a budget compromise. Billions of dollars apart, congressional negotiators were working to strike a deal by Friday to avert a shutdown by setting spend-

ing limits through the end of September. The last such shutdown took place 15 years ago and lasted 21 days.

President Barack Obama telephoned House Speaker John Boehner on Wednesday, and Boehner's office said the speaker told Obama he was hopeful a deal could be reached.

As the talks continued, the White House sought to put the prospect of a shutdown in terms people would care about, warning even that the beloved National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade in the nation's capital would be wiped out. The Smithsonian Institution and national parks around the country would also be closed.

DENVER (AP)—Eight-year-old Aidan Elliott had thrown a TV and chairs at his Colorado elementary school and was trying to use a cart to bust through a door to an office where teachers and other students fled for safety.

No one could calm the boy, not even the staff in a program for children with behavior problems like him. So they called police, who had intervened with Aidan twice before.

Police found him with a foot-long piece of wood trim with a knife-like point in one hand and a cardboard box in the other.

"Come get me, f---," he said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-11-028 SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic System (SPS) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation SPS facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational SPS Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The Scope-of-Services will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **May 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Building, Lower Base Industrial Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-11-028 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation"**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **June 14, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email.wallon9@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction two (2) boats on Friday, April 15, 2011. The boats may be inspected at the CDA Office parking lot in Gualo Rai.

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. The items are being sold **"AS IS"** and **"WHERE IS"**;
2. The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
3. The public auction will be held at the **CDA Conference Room, Second Floor on Friday, April 15, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.**
4. Full payment is due on the day of auction and before the boat(s) can be removed from the premises. Buyer is responsible for removing purchased item(s);
5. Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa only) or certified check; and
6. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

/S/ **MANUEL A. SABLÁN**
Executive Director



22' FISHING BOAT



Hull ID No.: XUE4949246
Engine: 115 HP outboard motor (inoperable)

Asia

Preventing blasts a focus at Japan nuclear plant

TOKYO (AP)—After notching a rare victory by stopping highly radioactive water from flowing into the Pacific, workers at Japan's flooded nuclear power complex turned to their next task early Thursday: injecting nitrogen to prevent more hydrogen explosions.

Nuclear officials said Wednesday there was no immediate threat of explosions like the three that rocked the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant not long after a massive tsunami hit on March 11, but their plans are a reminder of how much work remains to stabilize the complex.

Workers are racing to cool down the plant's reactors, which have been overheating since power was knocked out by the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami that killed as many as 25,000 people and destroyed hundreds of miles of coastline.

Unable to restore normal cooling systems because water has damaged them and radioactivity has made conditions dangerous, workers have resorted to pumping water into the reactors and letting it gush wherever it can.

Superheated fuel rods can pull explosive hydrogen from cooling water, so now that more water is going into the reactors, the concern is that hydrogen levels are rising.

Technicians began pumping nitrogen into an area around one of the plant's six reactors in the early hours of Thursday to counteract the hydrogen, said Makoto Watanabe, a spokesman for Japan's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency. They want to prevent hydrogen explosions that could spew radiation and damage the reactors.

An internal report from March 26 by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission warned such explosions could occur.

The nitrogen pumping also has risks, but the nuclear agency approved it as a necessary measure to avoid danger, spokesman Hidehiko Nishiyama said. The injection could release radioactive vapor into the environment, but residents within 12 miles (20 kilometers) of the plant have been evacuated.

The government said Wednesday it might consider expanding that zone, though not because of the nitrogen injection. An expansion might not necessarily mean the radiation that has been spewing into the air and water from the plant is getting worse. The effects of radiation are determined by both the strength of the dose and the length of exposure, so the concern is that people farther away might start being affected as the crisis drags on.

"I would imagine residents in areas facing a possibility for long-term exposure are ex-

tremely worried," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano said. "We are currently consulting

with experts so that we can come up with a clear safety standard."



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147

Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village, P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 • Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
P.O. Box 501127, San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 • Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff.
vs.
ANTONIO A. ARRIOLA, MARIA M. ARRIOLA, JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA,
A-FAMILIA INC., and U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 05-0303C
NOTICE OF AUCTION

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
Plaintiff.
vs.
EDWARD U. MARATITA and ROSA C. MARATITA,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 05-0238
NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, herein referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant Antonio A. Arriola in the following described, improved, real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Land situated in Garapan, Annex II, Saipan Municipality, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, more particularly described as **Lot No. 003 D 08** (formerly Block 1 Lot 8) as shown on the Division of Land Survey Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00, dated February 25, 1971, and containing an area of 1002.12 square meters, including all existing improvements on the real estate, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00pm on Friday, April 15, 2011**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

5. **Deposit; Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** **Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Antonio A. Arriola in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property of its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 10th day of March 2011.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety



ANTONIO ARRIOLA
LOT NO. 003 D 08

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, herein referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Edward U. Maratita and Rosa C. Maratita in the following described, real property situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Tract No. 22178, situated in Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Survey Plat Number 3017/86, dated June 26, 1986, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith;

and

Lot No. 007 R 34, situated in Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 928 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 1294, including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00pm on Friday, April 15, 2011**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
 - a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.

4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

5. **Deposit; Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** **Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Edward U. Maratita and Rosa C. Maratita in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property of its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.**

Dated this 10th day of March 2011.

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety



EDWARD MARATITA
TRACT NO. 22178
I-CHENCHON, ROTA



EDWARD MARATITA
LOT NO. 007 R 34
SONGSONG, ROTA

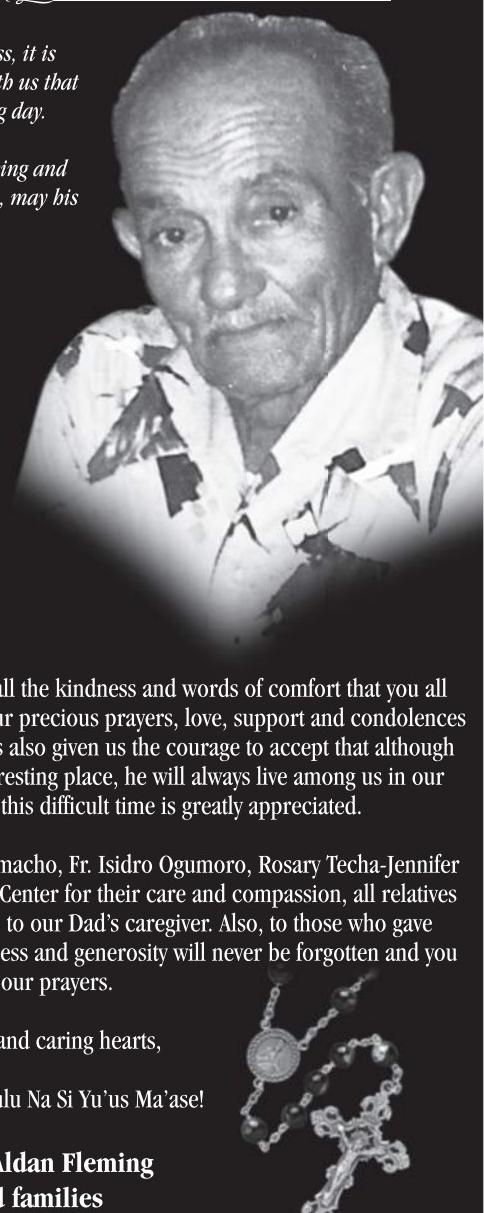
IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

"At a time when our hearts are filled with pain and loss, it is through the love, care and support that you've shared with us that has given us the strength and courage in each passing day."

We thank our Heavenly Father for blessing us with a loving and caring father. As he celebrates his new life in God's grace, may his spirit and memory live forever in our hearts."

We, the family of the late

†Alfred Flores Fleming



Wish to extend our deepest sincere appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss of our beloved "ALFRED". Your precious prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us during our most difficult times and has also given us the courage to accept that although "ALFRED" has gone from our lives and into his final resting place, he will always live among us in our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

We are also especially grateful for Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Isidro Ogunoro, Rosary Tech-Jennifer H. Pettis, San Jose Church choir, Staff of Tinian Health Center for their care and compassion, all relatives and friends who helped and supported us in Tinian, to our Dad's caregiver. Also, to those who gave contributions and lent their helping hands, your kindness and generosity will never be forgotten and you will always be in our prayers.

With loving thoughts and caring hearts,

Thank You, yan Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Rosalia (Liang) Aldan Fleming
Children and families



In Loving Memory of †Gerardo Warren Lazarte Butalid

August 20, 1967 - March 30, 2011

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: †Judge Walerico B. Butalid

Father In-Law: †Felix C. Adlawan

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Clarissa Adlawan and daughter Giselle

Mother: Erlinda L. Butalid

Mother In-Law: Luise B. Adlawan

Brother, Sisters, In-Laws and Families:

Tomas Walerico and Lalaine

(Thomas Walerico III, Trisha Erika,
and Trinity Erich)

Marla Reinalda and Wendell Sabarre

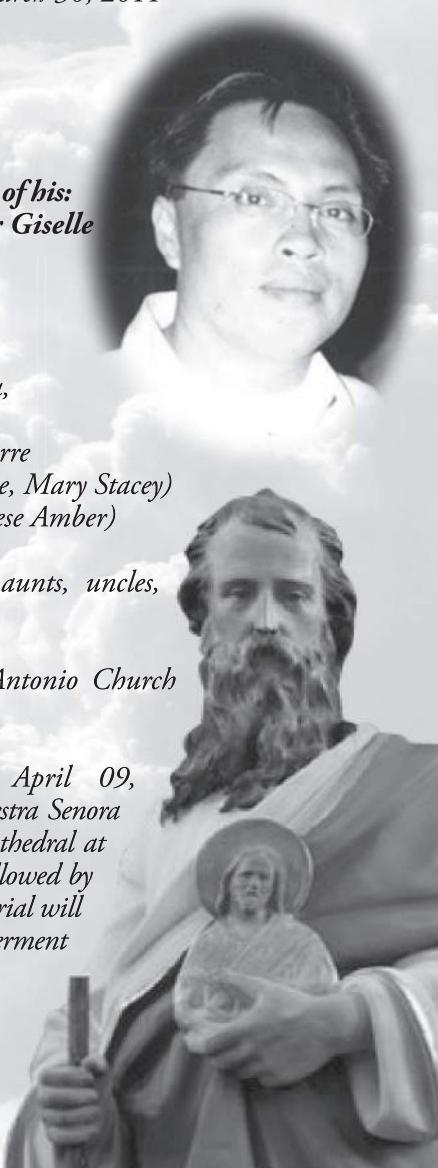
(Ally Sandra Bianca, Kimberly Anne, Mary Stacey)
Glenda Faye and Julius Julian (Reese Amber)

He is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at San Antonio Church each evening at 6:00PM.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, April 09, 2011. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment service at Tanapag Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers,
Clarissa A. & Giselle A. Butalid,
Erlinda L. Butalid & Luisa B. Adlawan,
Danny I. & Joann I. Aquino



ASIAN BRIEFS

Armed tribesmen in Philippines abandon 13 hostages

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Armed tribesmen under pressure from Filipino troops abandoned 13 hostages they held six days to demand the release of jailed relatives, then escaped in the southern Philippine jungle Wednesday, officials said. The stunned but unharmed hostages, mostly school teachers and a 10-year-old girl stricken with fever, were seized by five Manobo tribesmen Friday in remote southeastern Agusan del Sur province. Their safe release contrasted with the bloody end of a hostage crisis last year in which eight Hong Kong tourists were shot to death in Manila. "I'm happy that nobody got hurt," President Benigno Aquino III said. Aquino sent Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and the national police chief to Agusan, about 515 miles (830 kilometers) southeast of Manila, as the hostage standoff dragged on and attracted wide news coverage.

Afghan officials: 2-3 men suspected in UN attack

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Former insurgents who had renounced the Taliban and were in a re-integration program are suspected of taking an assault rifle from a Nepalese guard and opening

fire during the anti-Quran-burning riot last week that left seven U.N. workers dead, Afghan officials said Wednesday. Parliamentarian Mohammad Akbari said government investigators have identified three men they believe were involved in the killing of three U.N. staff members and four Nepalese guards in the April 1 attack against the U.N. headquarters in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. Four protesters also were killed. The men were arrested the day of the riot. It began as a peaceful demonstration, but after crowds stormed the building and set fires, some protesters seized weapons and started shooting.

Climbers launch expedition to clear Everest trash

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A team of mountaineers led by a veteran Sherpa guide flew Wednesday to Mount Everest on an expedition to clear away tons of trash left on the world's highest peak. Since Everest was first conquered in 1953, thousands of people have climbed it, leaving behind the empty oxygen bottles, ropes, tents and other garbage that made their journey possible. Nepal has since required climbers to bring down everything they take up the mountain or lose their deposit, but debris from past climbs still litters the slopes.

FRANCISCO GHITOYOO NORITA RIOS "Tikko"



Born on December 02, 1950
and was called to his
Eternal Rest on March 26, 2011.

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his

Wife: Delgadina Rangamar Rios

Children:

Perry Taimanao & Ruth Q. Matagolai - Perry Jane Taimanao and Gabriella Quitugua - Rota, CNMI
SGT. Odoshi, Ramon Aaron R. & Alvina T. - Tacoma, Washington
Roxella Marie R. & Joseph Meeyog - Zoelyla Dixie, Anesto Joseph, and Aaron Dale - Odessa, Texas
Jeanna-Dine R. Rios & Daniel T. Ignoef - Tehya Danielle - Odessa, Texas
SPC. Rios, Franco Dean R. & Quenna A. - Colorado Springs, Colorado
Dale Colin R. Rios - Odessa, Texas
Junie Gayle R. Rios - Odessa, Texas

Brothers & Sisters & In-Laws:

Jose S. & Emilia Rios, Maria R. Cruz, David N. Rios, Esperanza R. Taitano, Juanita R. & Crispin DLGuerrero, Marissa Rios & Claudio Magofna, Joseph N. & Lily Rios, Moses N. & Felicia Rios, Jeanette and Thomas Iderbei, Lillian R. & Moses Cudiamat and Mariano N. & Emerenciana Rios

Brothers and Sisters In-Law:

Raphael Rangamar, Daniel Rangamar, Ana R. & Enrique Cruz, Ricardo & Emiliana Rangamar and Lourdes M. Rangamar

Maternal Aunt: Julia K. Norita

God Mother: Isabel Norita

He is now reunited with his

Parents: Joaquin Sablan Quidachai & Estefania Iguel Norita-Rios

Parents in Law: Ernesto and Maria Rangamar

Brothers: Mariano Norita and Abel Rios

Brothers and Sisters in Law: Jesus Cruz, Rosario T. Rios, Juan S. Taitano, Luis Rangamar, Vicente Rangamar, Lorenzo Rangamar, Luciano Rangamar, Delores R. Rabauliman, Fidelia R. Merur, Connie M. Rangamar, and Joaquin W. Rabauliman.

He will also be missed by his God Children, Numerous Nieces, Nephews, and Friends.

His remains will arrive on Saturday, April 9, 2011, at 3:00 in the afternoon. On Monday, April 11, 2011 his remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home to the residence of Esperanza R. Taitano in Tanapag at 3:30 p.m. for wake. Mass of Christian Burial will be on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at Santa Remedios Church at 10:00 a.m. followed by Internment at Tanapag Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers

From the family.

World

59 bodies found in pits in Mexican border state

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Fifty-nine bodies were found buried Wednesday in a series of pits in the northern Mexico state of Tamaulipas, near the site where suspected drug gang members massacred 72 migrants last summer, officials said.

Security forces stumbled on the site as they were investigating reports that passengers had been pulled off several buses by gunmen in the area in what may have been an attempt at forced

recruitment by a drug gang.

State and federal authorities conducted a raid that netted several suspected kidnappers and freed five kidnap victims.

Then they made a grisly discovery—a total of eight pits, containing a total of 59 corpses. One of the pits held 43 dead.

The Tamaulipas state government said the find was made Wednesday, and 11 suspects were detained, but the federal Interior department said the first pit was found Saturday and five suspects were detained by soldiers.

Tamaulipas state interior sec-

retary Morelos Canseco said two of the dead were women. Many of the victims found in the pits appeared to have died between 10 and 15 days ago, dates that would roughly match the bus abductions, he said.

Canseco said state officials began getting reports that gunmen had been stopping buses, starting around March 25. At least two more cases were reported in the following days. The buses were allowed to continue on with their remaining passengers in each case.

The bodies were being examined to determine their

identities and the causes of death, the Tamaulipas state government said in statement in which it “energetically condemned” the crimes.

The statement did not identify what drug gang, if any, that the arrested suspects belonged to, or why they might have hijacked the bus.

President Felipe Calderon’s office issued a statement saying the find “underlines the cowardliness and total lack of scruples of the criminal organizations that cause violence in our country.”

While there was no immediate confirmation that a drug

cartel was involved, officials refer to the cartels as “criminal organizations.”

The statement said Calderon had ordered federal officials to help in the investigation, and particularly in the work of identifying the victims.

The pits were found in the farm hamlet of La Joya in the township of San Fernando, in the same area where the bodies of 72 migrants, most from Central America, were found shot to death Aug. 24 at a ranch.

The area is about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from the border at Brownsville, Texas.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gbagbo's home in Ivory Coast comes under attack

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—Even after airstrikes pounded holes in his garden, even after fighters encircled his home and stormed the gates, Laurent Gbagbo did not budge Wednesday from the bunker where he remains holed up. The finale of Gbagbo's 10-year claim on Ivory Coast is playing out much like the beginning. The 65-year-old strongman, who made an art of staying in power years past the end of his legal mandate, is now pushing the envelope, fighting for each day, even each hour. “He will not surrender,” said Meite Sindou, a defense spokesman for Alassane Ouattara, the man recognized worldwide as the democratically elected president of Ivory Coast. “We will have to take him.”

Former US rep in Libya to seek Gadhafi's exit

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A former U.S. congressman invited by Moammar Gadhafi arrived in Tripoli on Wednesday on a self-described private mission to urge the Libyan leader to step down as rebels and pro-government forces waged near stalemate battles. Curt Weldon, a Pennsylvania Republican who has visited Libya twice before, said he leading a private delegation and had informed the White House and some members of Congress about his trip. He was in Libya's capital as a White House envoy, Chris Stevens, was meeting rebels in their de facto capital, Benghazi, to gauge their intentions and capabilities.

Gates tries to soothe Saudis rattled by unrest

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Defense Secretary Robert Gates tried to smooth the worst rift in years with Arab ally and oil producer Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, reassuring the Saudi king that the U.S. remains a steady friend despite support for pro-democracy revolutions in the Middle East. The Saudi king, looking thin after months of medical treatment in the United States and elsewhere, welcomed Gates for what the Pentagon chief later said was a cordial and warm visit. The hospitality masked deep unease among Saudi Arabia's aged leadership about what the political upheaval in the Middle East means for its hold on power, its role as the chief counterweight to a rising Iran, and its changed relationship with the United States.

FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

†Daniel
Tenorio
Villagomez

We, the family humbly invite relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the passing of our BELOVED DANIEL unto eternal life.

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered from April 6, 2011 through April 14, 2011 at the St. Jude Church in Koblerville. Times of Mass are as follows:

Monday – Friday 6:00PM

Saturday 7:00AM

Sunday 8:00AM

On Thursday, April 14, 2011 Rosary will be said at 12NOON at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Antonia Villagomez Carr and Final Mass will be held at 6:00PM at the St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

Your presence is greatly appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You

THE FAMILY

Si Yu'us Ma'ase

We, the family of the late

†Tan Margarita Tudela Camacho Muña

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our families, relative and friends for the compassion you showed us during our time of sorrow. We ESPECIALLY would like to acknowledge and thank all of you for the many thoughtful prayers, words of comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers during the nightly rosaries, funeral mass, and the burial has helped us endure our great loss.

We extend our special thanks to:

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho for presiding at the Mass of Christian Burial, Fr. Raul Salgado for responsorial service, Fr. Jesse Reyes, Fr. Celso Magabuna, Fr. Ray Rosal for their presence, our Rosary Tech – Mrs. Beck J. Seman, The Doctors and Nurses of the Commonwealth Center and the MHS Visiting Nurses for their assistance and care and especially we also like to acknowledge Dr. Norma S. Ada for her patience and compassion, our thanks to Bing-our Mom's caregiver and the Kantaye Kristo Rai Chior for gracing our Mom's funeral Mass.

Thank You

Tun Kulas Q. Muña, Children and Family

Off the Wall

Disaster honeymoon for couple

STOCKHOLM (AP)—Honeymoons aren't always easy for newlyweds, but six natural disasters?

When Stefan and Erika Svanstrom of Stockholm set out on their 4-month-long honeymoon with their baby girl on Dec. 6, they say they got more than they bargained for: Immediately they were stranded in Munich, Germany, due to one of Europe's worst snowstorms, he said.

But that was just the beginning.

After that, he said, they experienced the devastation of a cyclone in Cairns, Australia, and the flooding in Brisbane, and narrowly escaped the bush fires in Perth.

Feathers fly in mass pillow fights in cities

LONDON (AP)—People in cities across the globe have taken part in mass pillow fights as part of International Pillow Fight Day.

In London's Trafalgar Square, people came dressed in pajamas, dressing gowns and fancy dress to take part in the good natured pillow fight Saturday afternoon. Most people carried feather-filled pillows that exploded as they fought.

London's Metropolitan Police said Sunday that the event had been peaceful and they had no reports of any trouble.

Organizers listed similar events in more than 130 cities around the world.

The fights were organized by The Urban Playground Movement which wants to encourage people to make use of public spaces.

Young people take part in a pillow fight on Pillow Fight Day at the Zamkowy square in Warsaw, Poland, Saturday, April 2, 2011.

"We escaped by the skin of our teeth," Svanstrom said, recalling how they were evacuated in Cairns and were forced to spend 24 hours on a cement floor in a shopping center with 2,500 others. "Trees were being knocked over and big branches were scattered across the streets."

Just before they arrived in New Zealand, the 6.3-magnitude earthquake hit Christchurch and in Tokyo, they felt Japan's largest tremor since records began, he said.

"The trembling was horrible and we saw roof tiles fly off the buildings. It was like the buildings were swaying back and forth," he said.

said Svanstrom, who also said he survived the devastating tsunami that hit southeast Asia in 2004.

On March 29, the family returned to Stockholm after a much calmer visit to their last destination, China. Their story was first reported in Stockholm's Expressen newspaper.

"I know marriages have to endure some trials, but I think we have been through most of them," Svanstrom said.

For newlyweds "we've certainly experienced more than our fair share of catastrophes in a marriage, but the most important thing is that we're still going strong," he said.



OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Feds: Ga. man had recruit sell fake movie posters

ATLANTA (AP)—Federal prosecutors say a Georgia man accused of making more than \$1 million from the sale of fake vintage horror movie posters has found another way to continue his scheme. Kerry Haggard, was released on \$100,000 bail after he was arrested in April 2010 on mail fraud charges. But U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said in a letter filed Monday that Haggard has since recruited someone to sell 81 posters and other items on his behalf, defying a court order. He urged the judge to revoke Haggard's bail and issue a warrant for his arrest. Prosecutors say Haggard sold fake reproductions from movies such as "Frankenstein" for \$500 to \$5,000, bilking victims of more than \$1 million over a four-year span.

Cops: Ohio man charged after barking at police dog

MASON, Ohio (AP)—Police say an Ohio man has been charged with a misdemeanor for barking at a police dog. A police report says 25-year-old Ryan James Stephens was charged with teasing a police dog in the Cincinnati suburb of Mason. Officer Bradley Walker wrote that he heard the K9 dog barking uncontrollably inside his patrol car while he was investigating a car crash at a pub early Sunday morning. Walker says Stephens was making barking noises and hissing at the animal. Walker reported that Stephens said "the dog started it" when asked why he was harassing the animal. The officer said Stephens appeared highly intoxicated.

Similar names prompt Pa. brewers' 'Elf' battle

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP)—A central Pennsylvania brewery is hopping mad over the name given to another brewer's elfish ale. Harrisburg's Troegs Brewing Company wants Fegley's Brew Works in Bethlehem to stop selling a beer with a name similar to Troegs' Mad Elf Ale. The brewer wants the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to cancel Fegley's trademark on Rude Elf's Reserve. Troegs says the two seasonal beers are likely to cause confusion among consumers since they have similar names and are distributed in some of the same areas. Fegley's Brew Works owner Jeff Fegley tells The Patriot-News of Harrisburg that Troegs just wants to "monopolize the word 'elf' in advertising its beer."

Man delivers decomposing body to NM emergency room

ESPAÑOLA, N.M. (AP)—Police in the northern New Mexico city of Espanola say a man tried to get help at a hospital emergency room for a woman who had been dead as long as a day and a half. Officers say Jerry Maestas drove to the hospital Tuesday with the 33-year-old woman's decomposing body propped up in the passenger seat. The 64-year-old Maestas asked hospital staff to come outside and help his sick friend. Police spokesman Jeremy Apodaca says the staff could tell by the smell that the woman had been dead for some time. KOB-TV reports that the woman may have been dead for 24 to 36 hours, and Maestas will face charges of failing to report a death.

Science & Technology

WEIRD AND WACKY:

Inventors show off their devices

GENEVA (AP)—They say there's a gadget for just about everything. That now includes boots which detect radiation and a kangaroo tail for weary humans who'd like a rest but can't be bothered to sit down.

These and a thousand other devices went on display Wednesday at the world's biggest inventions fair, where exhibitors from 45 countries showed off their weird and wacky designs in Geneva in the hope of attracting investors or buyers.

Peyman Sarhadi of Iran showed off his "super smart boot," which he hopes will become the Swiss army knife of footwear.

Equipped with sensors, it collects data on air temperature, humidity, location and the wearer's blood pressure, and then sends the information to a base camp. It can heat or cool the feet and can also measure radiation levels, a feat that might be useful given Iran's reputed nuclear ambitions—peaceful or otherwise.

Sarhadi claims the boot is already being tested by the Iranian army.

"It's useful," Sarhadi said in a remarkably understated sales pitch.

Emanuele Lopopolo of Italy presented a portable backrest that allows its wearer to take a break from standing by leaning back onto a telescopic pole.

"The kangaroo can rest its weight on its tail, so we've



French Jean Marc Batard presents his invention a vertical garden AP

made the same thing for humans," he said, reclining at a 60-degree angle while passing spectators did their best not to trip over the pole.

Miracle tinctures and obscure industrial equipment aside, visitors may find the most useful inventions include a mouthwash-dispensing toothbrush, a braille photocopier, a foldable tandem bike and a vertical garden.

Jean-Marc Batard said the idea to build his pyramid-like garden came from his experience running a retirement home, where many elderly people complained about not being able to pursue their love of gardening because it was too hard for them to bend down.

The Frenchman came up with a modular wooden frame that can be modified to suit the

gardener's horticultural preference—and reach.

While many inventors enjoy support from their governments or universities, some have invested large sums of their own money in unlikely gadgets in the hope of someday hitting the jackpot.

"I've spent euro50,000 (\$71,500) on the prototype, now I need an investor to make it in bulk," said Roberto Capomazza, demonstrating what he claims is the fastest shrimp peeling device ever invented.

And why did he devote so much money toward developing a rather simple kitchen implement?

"I love shrimp, but I hate using my fingers to peel them," he replied.

The fair opened Wednesday and runs until April 10.

Facebook lets you show just one public face

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)



QUESTION: I joined Facebook to keep my grandchildren company. Through some miscue on my part, I now have two separate Facebook accounts, each with

its own set of photos and friends. How can I cancel one account while keeping the photos and friends from both accounts? Is it possible to combine the two accounts?—Gil Snyder, Miami

ANSWER: Facebook says it's not possible to merge two separate accounts. But you can download everything from one account (see tinyurl.com/3hkghts) so you can upload it to the other one.

You can't pick and choose what to download because it all comes in one package that includes your profile, wall posts, photos and videos, friend list, notes you made, events for which you sent an RSVP, messages, and comments made by you or others.

When you're finished with the old account, delete it. See tinyurl.com/yf9w4tx.

A note to those who are more deeply involved with Facebook: If you are a "group administrator," meaning that you control the membership of a group, make sure to authorize your surviving Facebook account to be an "admin" before you abandon an old account. See tinyurl.com/3z8cp5r.

■ ■ ■

Q: The new Hewlett-Packard desktop I recently bought won't function. It came with

one month of Norton Antivirus protection, and after that the program kept telling me I had no protection. I tried to install the free Microsoft Security Essentials program, but it warned me to remove any existing antivirus programs first. I thought I did that, but when I tried to restart the PC I got a blank screen. What should I do now?—Ian Naish, Ottawa

A: You've accidentally deleted some files that Windows needs to function. If you got a Windows 7 installation disk with your new PC, put it in the DVD drive. When a menu appears on the screen choose "system recovery options," then "startup repair," which can fix some missing or damaged Windows files. If you didn't get an installation disk with your PC, look for a "recovery disk" that can fix the same things.

If you didn't get either disk with your PC, you'll need to contact HP and order a Windows 7 recovery disk. Since you have access to another computer, you'll find the instructions for ordering a recovery disk at tinyurl.com/moml1t. Otherwise, call HP at 800-474-6836.

Once Windows is working again, you can get rid of the trial version of Norton Antivirus on your PC by using a free removal tool from Symantec, the company that makes the Norton security products. You can find it at tinyurl.com/286wgwy.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Include a full name, city and phone number.

Mother spills son's secret and is renounced in return

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My son has refused to speak to me ever again because his girlfriend asked me if he had another child from a previous relationship. I didn't think it was right to lie to her, so I told her the truth about his daughter. My son called me yesterday and told me I was "dead to him" and he never wants to see me again. I feel so guilty having betrayed him.

I'm not sure how to make amends with my son. Abby, can you help me?



Dear Abby

SAD MOM IN OHIO

DEAR MOM: Your son may have preferred his girlfriend be kept in the dark about his daughter, but if the girlfriend didn't have some strong suspicions, she would not have raised the subject with you. Frankly, I admire you for telling the truth and not going along with your son's deception. I'm not sure how you should "make amends" with your son. He is the one who should be making amends with you. His lack of character is lamentable.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has been out of work for four months. Last week she applied for a job at a loan office. During the interview, she learned it was a payday loan operation, and she would be expected to get people to sign up for loans they could not afford.

This goes against our principles. We have seen family members caught in payday loan schemes that buried them in debt, and we find the whole industry to be immoral and abhorrent.

My wife is currently receiving unemployment compensation. One of the rules of unemployment is, if a company offers you work, you must accept it. She said if she knew what the position entailed, she would not have applied. Now she is terrified she may be offered a position in a business she finds repugnant, but she may not be able to decline the offer. What can she do? Please answer fast!

STUCK FOR AN ANSWER IN KANSAS CITY

DEAR STUCK FOR AN ANSWER: Your wife should contact the payday loan company and tell them she is not interested in the position before she gets an offer. That way, she won't be breaking any rules, and the company can hire a willing applicant.

DEAR ABBY: I have an issue regarding my 18-year-old son, "Jake." His father and I divorced several years ago -- amicably for the most part. Since then, and even before, Jake has had emotional problems.

My son makes up stories about himself. On one of his online social network sites he has been talking about a vehicle he doesn't own. He even invited a friend to go four-wheeling with him in his nonexistent vehicle. This is only one of many lies Jake has told. When I call him on it, he admits it but says it's "no big deal."

Abby, people believe what my son is telling them. What is going on, and what can I do?

CARING PARENT, LITTLETON, COLO.

DEAR CARING PARENT: Your son may lie in order to impress others, or be so emotionally troubled that he can't tell the difference between what he fantasizes and what is real. I assume that because Jake has had emotional difficulties for some time that he has been under the care of a therapist. If so, contact the therapist and explain what's going on. If Jake doesn't have a therapist, find one. Perhaps an intervention will help Jake. If the lying persists, your son will become increasingly isolated as it gets out that no one can believe a word he says.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

2 NY men arrested in shooting death of DJ Megatron

NEW YORK (AP)—Two New York City men have been arrested in the shooting death of radio and TV personality DJ Megatron.

Police say 21-year-old William Williams and 20-year-old Richard

Cromwell were arrested Wednesday on charges of murder, robbery and criminal possession of a weapon. It wasn't clear whether they had lawyers.

Police say the 32-year-old

disc jockey, whose real name is Corey McGriff, was shot once in the chest while walking to a store near his home on New York's Staten Island last month.

DJ Megatron worked on

NYC suit: Paris Hilton kept \$60K in borrowed gems



Television personality Paris Hilton attends the Oxygen network upfront at Gotham Hall on Monday, April 4, 2011 in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—A break-in at Paris Hilton's Los Angeles home has led to a New York lawsuit over \$60,000 in borrowed gems. A jeweler's insurer says the celebrity socialite simply held onto them after police gave them back to her.

Insurer Allianz Global sued Hilton on Wednesday. Her spokeswoman says only costume jewelry was recovered by police. The Munich-based insurer says jeweler Damiani lent Hilton the gems in 2007. The lawsuit says the Damiani jewels were taken along with about \$2 million worth of other jewels in the December 2008 burglary.

Police returned a Louis Vuitton bag full of jewelry to Hilton after making arrests in 2009. The suit says Hilton then ignored Allianz' requests to return the Damiani gems.

Five people still face charges in the break-in.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'La Cage aux Folles' to close on Broadway on May 1

NEW YORK (AP)—The sequin-spangled Broadway farce "La Cage aux Folles" is putting away its boas. Producers said Wednesday that the revival of the classic Jerry Herman-Harvey Fierstein musical that won a Tony Award last year will end May 1. The show currently stars Fierstein—who won a 1984 Tony for writing the show's book—and Christopher Sieber, who starred in "Spamalot" and "Shrek: The Musical." They took over the two leading parts from Douglas Hodge and Kelsey Grammer. The story centers

on a gay couple who run a St. Tropez drag club. When it ends its run at the Longacre Theatre next month, the production will have played 433 performances and 15 previews. A national tour will begin in October starting in Des Moines, Iowa.

Rapper Webbie arrested in Tennessee on drug charge

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee Highway Patrol officers have arrested rapper Webbie on drug possession and tampering with evidence charges after he was pulled over following a performance in Kentucky. Webbie, whose

real name is Webster Gradney Jr., was riding in a rental car that was stopped Monday south of Nashville. Authorities say the 25-year-old rapper from Baton Rouge, La., was found with \$13,000 and 2 ounces of marijuana. Troopers also say he threw marijuana out the car window. There was no attorney listed for him at the jail and a message left with his booking agency, Celebrity Talent Promotions, was not immediately returned. Webbie's album "Savage Life 2" made the rap charts in 2008. The rental car's driver was charged with driving with a suspended license and another passenger faces a gun charge.

Glenn Beck's Fox show ending

Yet some of his statements were getting him in trouble, and critics appealed to advertisers to boycott his show last summer after Beck said President Barack Obama had "a deep-seated hatred for white people."

Beck said that he went to Roger Ailes, Fox News chairman and CEO, in January to discuss ways they could continue to work together without the daily show.

"Half of the headlines say he's been canceled," Ailes said. "The other half say he quit. We're pretty happy with both of them."

Beck said he noted on his show Tuesday that "how many times can I tell the (George) Soros story," referring to the liberal donor that Beck has made a target of attacks.



Beck

"We felt Glenn brought additional information, a unique perspective, a certain amount of passion and insight to the channel and he did," Ailes said. "But that story of what's going

on and why America is in trouble today, I think he told that story as well as could be told. Whether you can just keep telling that story or not ... we're not so sure."

Beck, who outlined on Wednesday's show his reasons for believing that "we're heading into deep and treacherous waters," told his viewers at the end of the show that his Fox talk show would conclude.

"I will continue to tell the story and I will be showing other ways for us to connect," he said.

More than 400 Fox advertisers told the company they did

not want their commercials on Beck's show. Beck's advertisers were dominated by financial services firms, many touting gold as an investment.

Ailes dismissed the financial impact of the boycott but expressed some frustration with it.

"Advertisers who get weak-kneed because some idiot on a blog site writes to them and says we need to stifle speech, I get a little frustrated by that," he said.

One of Beck's most prominent critics—David Brock, founder of the liberal watchdog Media Matters for America—said that "the only surprise is that it took Fox News months to reach this decision."

"Fox News Channel clearly understands that Beck's increasingly erratic behavior is a liability to their ratings and their bottom line, and we are glad to see them take this action," said James Rucker, executive director of ColorofChange.org, which organized the advertiser boycott.



In this Aug. 12, 2008, file photo Lady Gaga makes an appearance at MTV Studio's in Times Square for MTV's "Total Request Live" show in New York.

'Glee' goes Gaga with expanded, 90-minute episode

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lady Gaga is getting the royal treatment on a new episode of "Glee."

The hit Fox series will expand by a half-hour for the April 26 episode paying tribute to the pop star.

In the 90-minute episode, members of the New Directions high school glee club perform her hit "Born This Way"—and learn a lesson about self-acceptance.

Lady Gaga is an outspoken supporter of gay rights.

"Glee," which has been on hiatus, returns with new shows April 19. The series airs at 8 p.m. EDT on Tuesdays.

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Championships a high note after capturing crown in the U18 division tournament.

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afaa Adam

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REPORTER'S

By JAYVIE VALLEJO

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Bucks beat Heat, hurting Miami in East chase

MIAMI (AP)—John Salmons scored 17 points, and Luc Richard Mbah a Moute added 14 points and 12 rebounds as the already-eliminated Milwaukee Bucks beat the Miami Heat 90-85 on Wednesday.

The loss knocked Miami (54-24) a half-game back of Boston in the race for the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Carlos Delfino's 3-pointer with 24 seconds left helped seal it for the Bucks, who got 14 points from Corey Maggette. Milwaukee was eliminated from playoff contention during the game, thanks to Indiana's win over Washington.

LeBron James scored 29 points for Miami, which played without injured guard Dwyane Wade, the NBA's No. 3 scorer.

Thunder 112, Clippers 108

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 29 points and Russell Westbrook added 26 as Oklahoma City clinched the Northwest Division title.

The Thunder won the first division crown for the franchise since 2005, when they were known as the Seattle SuperSonics, but only after fending off a late charge from the Clippers.

Blake Griffin had 35 points and 11 rebounds in the second visit to his hometown in his NBA career, but he missed a key foul shot that helped put the game away for Oklahoma City.

Hornets 101, Rockets 93

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 28 points and 10 assists as New Orleans clinched a playoff spot.

Trevor Ariza, acquired by the Hornets from Houston in an off-season trade, scored 19 for a second straight game and equaled a season high with six steals.

Jarrett Jack added 19 points, while seventh-year pro Emeka Okafor, who's never been to the playoffs, added 11 points to help rookie coach Monty Williams get there with a far shorter wait.

Kevin Martin scored 21 for Houston, which is now on the brink of elimination.

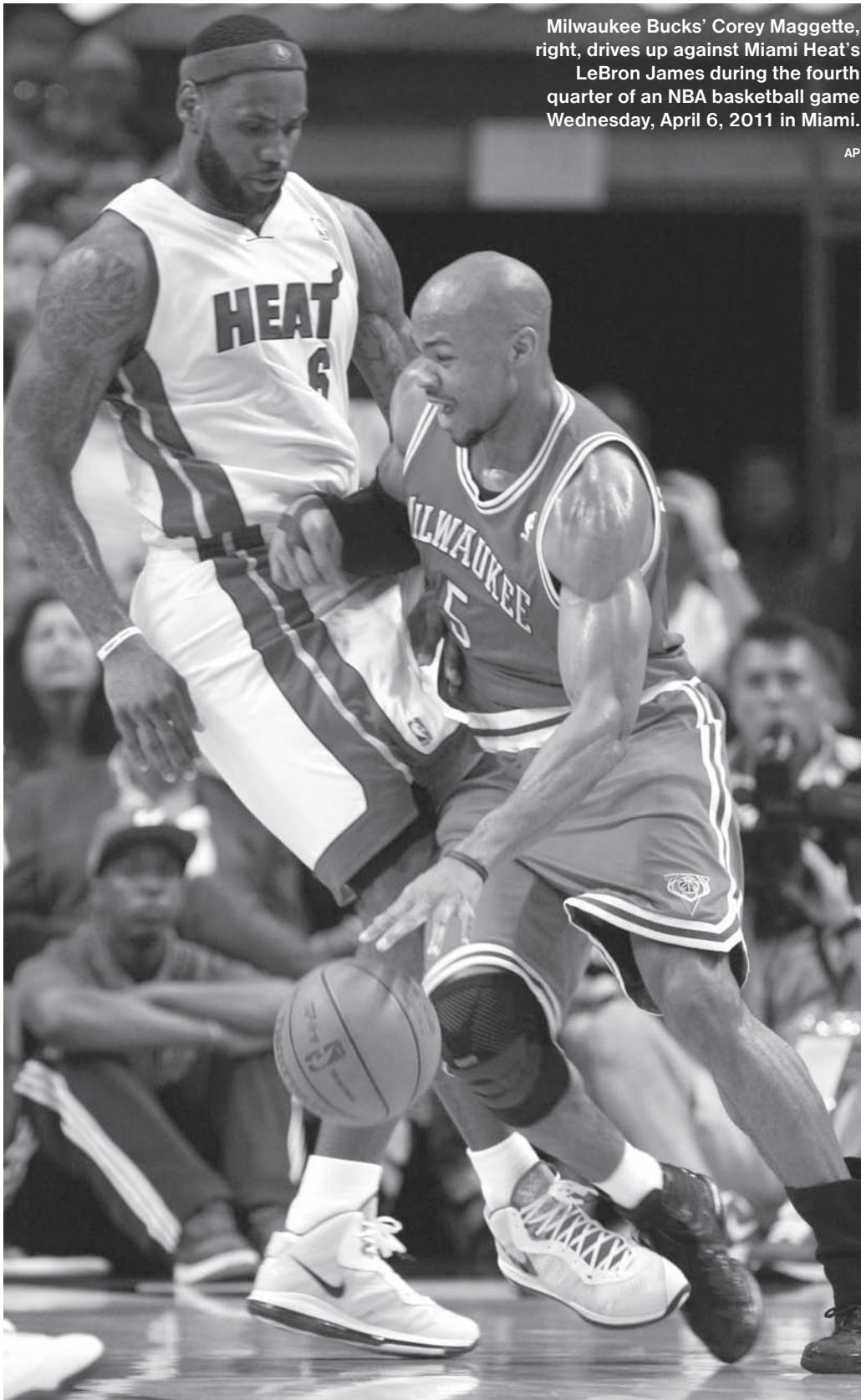
Pacers 136, Wizards 112

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 25 points as Indiana clinched a playoff spot for the first time since 2006.

The Pacers needed a win and a Charlotte loss to Orlando to clinch a spot in the postseason. As the Pacers' game ended, the Orlando-Charlotte game was in overtime, and the Conseco Fieldhouse staff put the game on the Jumbotron. Many fans stayed to cheer to the Magic on to a 111-102 win.

Paul George scored a career-high 23 points and Darren Collison added 15 points and 11 assists for the Pacers.

Jordan Crawford scored 29 points and John Wall had 19 points and nine rebounds for



Milwaukee Bucks' Corey Maggette, right, drives up against Miami Heat's LeBron James during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in Miami.

Washington.

Bobcats.

Warriors 95, Lakers 87

At Oakland, California, Monta Ellis scored 26 points, and David Lee had 22 points and 17 rebounds as Golden State held on to beat Los Angeles.

Stephen Curry added 20 points, six rebounds and five assists to help the Warriors build a 19-point lead in their third straight victory.

Kobe Bryant had 25 points and Pau Gasol scored 18 for the Lakers, who lost for the second consecutive night to an inferior opponent.

Nuggets 104, Mavericks 96

At Dallas, J.R. Smith broke a tie in the final minutes with a layup and immediately followed with a jump shot, lifting Denver past Dallas.

Smith scored 23 points and Kenyon Martin added 18 as the Nuggets won for the seventh time in eight games.

Playing without Jason Kidd or Tyson Chandler, the Mavericks lost their fourth straight, and ninth in a row against Western Conference playoff teams.

Magic 111, Bobcats 102

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gilbert Arenas scored 25 points as Orlando overcame Quentin Richardson's ejection and Dwight Howard's 18th technical foul to eliminate Charlotte from playoff contention.

Jameer Nelson atoned for two turnovers in the closing seconds of regulation by hitting a jumper and banking in a 3-pointer in Orlando's 12-2 run to open the extra period. Brandon Bass added 19 points for the Magic, who secured their fourth consecutive 50-win season.

Gerald Henderson scored a career-high 32 points for the

Knicks 97, 76ers 92

At Philadelphia, Carmelo Anthony had 31 points and 11 rebounds and Amare Stoudemire scored 18 points as New York moved into sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Toney Douglas bailed out the Knicks after they blew a 19-point lead and trailed by one late in the fourth.

Andre Iguodala pulled the Sixers within one with his first 3-pointer of the game. Anthony delivered with a big-time 3-pointer and pounded his chest in celebration with a 95-91 lead.

Spurs 124, Kings 92

At San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 25 points as San Antonio moved to the brink of the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

The Spurs can clinch home-court advantage throughout the West playoffs with their next victory or loss by the Los Angeles Lakers.

George Hill scored 12 of his 19 points during the third quarter, when the Spurs outscored the Kings by 20 in their best offensive quarter of the season.

Tyreke Evans led the Kings with 16 points and rookie DeMarcus Cousins added 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Cavaliers 104, Raptors 96

At Toronto, J.J. Hickson scored 28 points to lead Cleveland past Toronto.

Jerryd Bayless scored 28 points for the Raptors (21-57), DeMar DeRozan added 19 points and Reggie Evans had a season-high 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds. Sonny Weems finished with 17 points.

Baron Davis added 19 points for the Cavs (17-61), while Ramon Sessions chipped in with 15, Ryan Hollins finished with 14, and Alonzo Gee added 10.

Pistons 116, Nets 109

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 25 points and Rodney Stuckey added 22 to lead Detroit.

Brook Lopez scored a career-high 39 points for New Jersey, which was without star Deron Williams. The point guard was out with an injured right wrist. Lopez nearly made up for his absence, but the Nets settled for outside shots against Detroit's zone defense late in the game.

Suns 108, Timberwolves 98

At Minneapolis, Marcin Gortat scored 20 points and grabbed 16 rebounds as Phoenix dropped Minnesota into last place in the NBA.

Minnesota has lost 11 consecutive games and 22 of its past 26.

Michael Beasley scored 24 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

Irving leaving Duke after 1 season for NBA

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—Point guard Kyrie Irving is leaving Duke after one season to enter the NBA draft.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski said in a statement issued Wednesday by the school that Irving plans to hire an agent, ending his college career.

"Our whole program is overjoyed with having Kyrie here for one year and that he has the chance now to pursue a dream of being a high draft pick and a great player in the NBA," Krzyzewski said. "We are totally supportive of Kyrie, his family and his decision. We look forward to continuing to work with him during the upcoming months leading to his entry into the NBA and afterwards while he is an NBA player."

Irving played only 11 games and missed roughly two-thirds of the season with an injured big toe on his right foot. The

6-foot-2 guard averaged 17.5 points, 3.4 rebounds and 4.3 assists for top-seeded Duke, which was upset by Arizona in the West regional semifinals.

"It was a great experience playing for Coach K," Irving said. "He taught me a lot about the game. Even when I was hurt, I learned a lot. Also a special thanks goes to the medical staff for getting me back on the court for the NCAA Tournament and my teammates for sticking with me throughout the entire year. Duke offered me an experience I could never have imagined."

When Irving was healthy, he was electrifying. His 31-point performance against then-No. 6 Michigan State marked just the fourth time in school history that a freshman scored 30 points in a game. He was the MVP of the CBE Classic after averaging 14.5 points and six assists.

But his only season at Duke ultimately might be defined by the 26 games he missed after he jammed his toe during a win over Butler on Dec. 4, and the lingering subplot surrounding the Blue Devils was when—or even if—he would return.

He worked out in full public view before an Atlantic Coast Conference tournament game in uniform shorts and sneakers, told reporters after the championship game win over North Carolina that he could return and wound up coming off the bench for Duke's NCAA tournament opener against Hampton. He reached double figures in scoring in each of his three tournament games, capped by a 28-point showing in the loss to Arizona.

After that game, he said he didn't want to take off his No. 1 jersey and could see himself wearing it again as a sopho-

more, but wanted to consult with his coaches, family and friends before coming to a final decision on his future.

"This was a special year for me. I love everything about Duke and I'm going to miss it," added Irving. "Duke has a special place in my heart. Even though I'm leaving this year, Duke will always be in my mind and my heart. I'm going to miss putting on that No. 1 jersey."

Irving's departure leaves another hole in the Duke lineup that will be missing graduated seniors Nolan Smith, the ACC's player of the year, and Kyle Singler, the most outstanding player at last year's Final Four. Among the Blue Devils' incoming freshmen is guard Austin Rivers, the son of Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers and one of the nation's highest-rated recruits.

Winless Red Sox lose 5th straight, 8-4 to Indians

**C L E V E -
L A N D**
(AP)—Asdrubal Cabrera had four RBIs and Shin-Soo Choo hit a two-run homer as the Cleveland Indians kept the Boston Red Sox winless on Wednesday with an 8-4 victory that dropped one of baseball's big spenders to 0-5.

The Red Sox are off to their worst start in 15 years and look nothing like the team many forecast to be the last one standing in October. Boston hasn't started this poorly since 1996, and after finishing this series Thursday, the Sox head home to face the rival New York Yankees on Friday and what could be angry fans in Fenway Park.

Reliever Rafael Perez (1-0) worked 1 1-3 perfect innings for the Indians, who have won three straight.

Cabrera hit a three-run homer off reliever Dan Wheeler to cap a strange sixth inning, when mistakes on the mound and in the field cost the Red Sox four runs.

Matt LaPorta also homered for Cleveland.

Daisuke Matsuzaka (0-1) took the loss.

Angels 5, Rays 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, winless Tampa Bay Rays lost again when Dan Haren and the Los Angeles Angels shut down the American East champions 5-1.

The Rays fell to 0-5. In four of those games, they finished with exactly one run and four hits.

Rookie Jeremy Hellickson (0-1) lost despite striking out 10 in 5 2-3 innings.

Tampa Bay designated hitter Manny Ramirez, who has one hit in 17 at-bats this season, was out of the starting lineup. He flied out as a pinch-hitter in the eighth inning and will miss Thursday's game at the Chicago White Sox while tending to a personal matter.

Rangers 7, Mariners 3

At Arlington, Texas, Mitch Moreland hit a tiebreaking double off Cy Young pitching award winner Felix Hernandez as Texas remained unbeaten.

The AL champion Rangers are 6-0 for the first time since 1996, when they set a team record by winning their first seven games.

Moreland's go-ahead hit in the seventh inning made a winner of C.J. Wilson (1-0).

Tigers 7, Orioles 3

At Baltimore, Alex Avila homered and had a career-high five RBIs to back an effective pitching performance by Justin Verlander as Detroit ended Baltimore's unbeaten run.

Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez also connected for the Tigers, who became the first team this season to score more than one run against Baltimore.

Derrek Lee hit his first homer



Cleveland Indians' Asdrubal Cabrera, right, is congratulated by teammates after hitting a three-run home run in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, in Cleveland. AP

with the Orioles and Vladimir Guerrero got his first RBI. But Baltimore came up short in a bid to match the franchise-record 5-0 start of the 1970 squad that went on to win the World Series.

Verlander (1-0) gave up three runs and four hits in eight innings, striking out nine. He is 6-0 with a 2.64 ERA in eight career starts against Baltimore, including 4-0 at Camden Yards.

White Sox 10, Royals 7, 12 innings

At Kansas City, Missouri, Carlos Quentin and the White Sox pulled off a two-out rally in the ninth inning against All-Star closer Joakim Soria as Chicago beat Kansas City.

Brent Morel hit a go-ahead two-run single in the 12th off

Sean O'Sullivan (0-1).

The energetic Royals were in position to improve to 5-1 after Soria retired the first two batters in the ninth with a 6-3 lead. But Alex Rios and Paul Konerko hit RBI singles and Quentin's two-run double capped a four-run comeback for a 7-6 edge.

Kansas City tied it on Kila Ka'aihue's RBI double off Matt Thornton, setting up the Royals' third straight extra-inning game.

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 3

At Toronto, Travis Snider hit a three-run home run and Yunel Escobar had three hits before leaving with an injury as Toronto beat Oakland.

Jesse Litsch (1-0) pitched 6 1-3 for his first win since July 20 and Jon Rauch got two outs for his first save as the Blue Jays

won for the eighth time in 11 games against the Athletics.

Starting for the first time since Aug. 1, 2010, Litsch allowed three runs and six hits, walked two and struck out a career-high seven. Litsch missed the end of last season after undergoing hip surgery.

Giants 8, Padres 4

At San Diego, Tim Lincecum struck out 13 batters and held the San Diego Padres to one run and three hits in seven innings to lead the San Francisco Giants to a win.

Lincecum (1-1) left with an 8-1 lead after seven. The Freak struck out every San Diego regular except Nick Hundley, who hit a solo homer in the third, his first.

The Giants chased Tim

Stauffer (0-1) in the fifth, two batters after he allowed Aubrey Huff's RBI double to left-center. Stauffer allowed four runs and eight hits in 4 2-3 innings, walked two and struck out one.

Marlins 7, Nationals 4

At Miami, John Buck hit a bases-loaded triple as Florida came from behind to win for the second night in a row, this time erasing a four-run deficit.

Buck, who hit a grand slam on opening day, missed another by inches in the fifth and settled for a triple that tied the game. Chris Coghlan had three doubles and a single and scored three times for the Marlins, and Omar Infante put them ahead to stay with an RBI single in the sixth.

Washington's Ian Desmond, who entered the game 0 for 13, had four hits and two RBIs.

Florida went ahead with two runs in the sixth off Chad Gaudin (0-1).

Phillies 10, Mets 7

At Philadelphia, Ryan Howard equaled a career high with four hits and fell a triple short of the cycle, and Ben Francisco also homered as Philadelphia beat the New York Mets after wasting a 7-0 lead.

Placido Polanco had three hits and three RBIs, including a go-ahead single in the fifth, helping the four-time National League East champions overcome a rough start by Joe Blanton to improve to 4-1.

Angel Pagan hit a two-run homer for the Mets, who got a second straight poor outing from Mike Pelfrey. Pelfrey lasted just two-plus innings, allowing seven runs—six earned—and eight hits.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 5

At Denver, Todd Helton and Troy Tulowitzki homered in leading Colorado past Los Angeles for a two-game sweep.

Jason Hammel (1-0) was the beneficiary of the pop in the

middle of Colorado's lineup, picking up the win despite allowing two home runs in five innings and falling behind 4-2 in the third.

Helton's three-run homer off Chad Billingsley (1-1) gave Colorado a 5-4 lead in the third.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 4

At Chicago, Chris Young drove in two runs, scored twice and made a pair of nice catches in center field as Arizona beat Chicago.

Arizona ended its eight-game losing streak against the Cubs.

Armando Galarraga (1-0) won in his first career NL start, giving up five hits and four runs in 7 1-3 innings. J.J. Putz pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

Alfonso Soriano hit his third homer of the season and Aramis Ramirez hit his second for Chicago.

Ryan Dempster (0-2) gave up five runs—four earned—and 10 hits in seven innings. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

Pirates 3, Cardinals 1

At St. Louis, Kevin Correia and two relievers combined to slow St. Louis, and Neil Walker hit his second home run as Pittsburgh beat St. Louis.

The Pirates won their second road series of the season, now having taken two of three from St. Louis and the Chicago Cubs. Last year, Pittsburgh was a majors-worst 17-64 on the road on the way to a 57-105 record overall.

Chris Carpenter (0-1) allowed one earned run in six innings but left trailing 2-0 and lost to the Pirates for only the second time in 13 career decisions.

Reds 12, Astros 4

At Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips and Paul Janish had three hits each as Cincinnati overcame a four-run deficit and remained the NL's only unbeaten team.

The Reds are 5-0 for the first time since 1990, when they won their last World Series championship.

Edinson Volquez (1-0) overcame another lousy beginning.

The Astros committed a season-high five errors that helped the Reds catch up and pull away.

Nelson Figueroa (0-1) had one of the five errors that undercut the fast start.

Brewers 5, Braves 4

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder drove in his first three runs this season and scored two more to lead Milwaukee past Atlanta.

Fielder had been hitless in 11 at-bats when he singled in two runs with the bases loaded in the first against Mike Minor (0-1).

Marco Estrada (1-0) earned his first major league victory. He was called up from the minors earlier in the day to fill in while Zack Greinke is on the disabled list.

Barry Bonds rests with no defense witnesses

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Barry Bonds' confident defense team rested its case Wednesday without calling a single witness, just minutes after a federal judge accepted the government's request to dismiss one of the five counts against the home run king.

Prosecutors called 25 witnesses to the stand over 2 1/2 weeks, but the defense needed just one minute to present its side. The jury of eight women and four men barely had time to get settled in the courtroom before being told to return Thursday morning for closing arguments.

"We are expecting that you will get this case for decision tomorrow," U.S. District Judge

Susan Illston said to them. "Tomorrow will be the last day."

Once indicted on as many as 15 counts, Bonds will face just four charges when the jury starts deliberations in a court house less than two miles from the ballpark where he set records for the Giants. A decision could come as early as Friday—when the World Series championship flag is raised in San Francisco for the first time.

Faced with a defense motion that Illston was prepared to grant, prosecutors dropped the count accusing Bonds of lying to a grand jury in 2003 when he said prior to that season he never took anything other than vitamins from trainer Greg Anderson. The defense said the

government presented no evidence that Bonds was given Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG) and a testosterone ointment, designer steroids known as "The Clear" and "The Cream," before 2003. Bonds testified in front of the grand jury that Anderson told him the substances were flaxseed oil and arthritic balm.

The remaining counts charge Bonds with lying when he denied knowingly receiving steroids from Anderson, denied getting human growth hormone from Anderson and said he only allowed himself to be injected by doctors. The final count accuses Bonds of obstruction of justice.

Illston issued an order

Wednesday night rejecting three of the government's proposed seven answers from Bonds to be included in the jury instructions for the obstruction count—accusations he was "intentionally evasive, false or misleading" in addition to the false statement charges. The four additional statements involve Bonds saying Anderson always gave him "The Clear" and "The Cream" at the ballpark and not at home; that Bonds didn't keep track of the number of times he used those substances; that he evaded answering whether Anderson gave him anything that required a syringe; and he evaded answering whether Anderson gave him injectable testosterone.

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A Masters with endless possibilities



AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—On the far end of the course Wednesday, near the only palm tree at Augusta National, Lee Westwood rolled long putts across the fourth green as he practiced alone on a quiet afternoon before the Masters.

Spotting two familiar faces in the crowd, he looked over with a grin and said, "Lost? Bar closed?"

Through the pines and dogwoods, down a steep slope toward the 16th green, players stopped on the edge of the 16th green to the fans' delight and tried skipping shots across the pond and onto the green. On what might be the only day of boozing, Graeme McDowell got an earful when his shot sank before it got halfway across the water.

It sure didn't feel like the day before the first major of the year.

But then, Augusta National has a way of putting players at ease with its sheer beauty, when the Masters is more about azaleas and jasmine and enjoying a special place than trying to win a green jacket.

That figures to change on Thursday.

"The Masters has a fear factor, and that's the best thing about this golf course," three-time champion Nick Faldo said Wednesday.

Phil Mickelson will try to join some exclusive clubs when he tees off in the opening round as the clear favorite in the first major of the year. Never has Lefty had so much at stake at one tournament.

He can go to No. 1 in the world for the first time in his career. He can join Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Arnold Palmer as the only players with at least four green jackets. And he can become only the fourth player to win the Masters in consecutive years.

To show how much he's ready, Mickelson poured in 18 birdies last weekend to win the Houston Open. And when he arrived at the Masters, one of the first visits he made was to a back specialist.

"This week is the one week where I swing the absolute hardest," Mickelson said. "I've been working out for it. I saw a back specialist just to make sure that my back hangs in there. It feels terrific, but I've been working on it for some time to make sure it's strong enough to withstand the rotational speed that I'm going to be trying to apply this week. Because it's a big advantage if you can move it out there."

Woods, no longer the betting favorite at Augusta for the first time since 1999, is more concerned with a shorter club—his putter. It has kept him from winning the Masters twice in the last four years, and kept him



Arnold Palmer, center, looks on as Jack Nicklaus, left, shakes hands with Gary Player on the ninth green during the Par 3 competition before the Masters golf tournament Wednesday, April 6, 2011, in Augusta, Ga.

from contending since his return to golf a year ago.

Even so, they remain the two dominant forces.

"The Masters will always start with Tiger and Phil," said Robert Allenby, who will play with Woods the first two rounds. "Their record here and the way they play Augusta make them the two to beat."

The difference this year: They have some company.

PGA champion Martin Kaymer is No. 1 in the world and will try to win his second straight major. He considers the favorite to be Luke Donald, who beat Kaymer in the Match Play Championship earlier this year. Then there's Westwood, who has been no worse than third in four of the last five majors. Throw in the likes of Dustin Johnson, Nick Watney, Rory McIlroy and Paul Casey, and the smallest field of any major suddenly has a long list of contenders.

Some of that is a new generation arriving. Some of that is Woods no longer standing in their way.

"In the past, a lot of guys used up a lot of energy thinking about Tiger and what he's doing. Now they're doing their own thing and thinking about what they're needing to do," Faldo said.

"There's genuinely 20 guys who could win this. I'm hoping we have a dozen guys coming down the back nine Sunday with a shot."

What had been considered a wide open Masters became slightly more narrow with Mickelson's win last week in Houston. And while Woods has gone 17 months without a win, Nicklaus won't rule him out.

"They both are going to play well," Nicklaus said. "But there are other guys who will do the same."

The names he mentioned all had one trait—they hit the ball high and long, always a good combination at Augusta. But with a forecast for sunshine the rest of the week, which will make the course fast and firm and shorter than its 7,435 yards, there has been more talk about the short game than usual this week.

"You don't have to be a big hitter to win here," Mickelson said. "If you're short game isn't sharp, you really need to strike it exceptionally well. I don't know if it's really possible, because the penalty for a slight miss-hit is in an area where you have to be on your short game. So anybody—whether you are long or short—if you're on your short game, you have a good chance."

Faldo mentioned Donald, who is one of a half-dozen players who can go to No. 1 with a win this week. Donald is at No. 4, and along with his win at the Match Play, he has finished out of the top 10 only twice over the last seven months.

"I've never felt more confident coming in here," Donald said. "I've prepared well. I've been very diligent in what I need to do. I've been hitting a lot of chips. Now I've just got to do it."

As always, that's always the hard part at the Masters.

Even as the No. 1 player in the world, Woods has gone five Masters without winning, the longest drought of his career. And while Mickelson looked as tough as ever to beat last week in Houston, this is Augusta.

"I find the golf course very intimidating," Padraig Harrington said. "There's a lot of pressure on the golf course. You can hit a good shot and make birdie, and hit a bad shot on the same hole and make double bogey. As much as I find it intimidating, I've got to believe it suits my game. I have a good short game, a good mental game. I like the idea it's pressure."

"As much as I'm suffering, everyone else must be suffering, too."

Judge: Lockout ruling to take 'couple of weeks'



ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—As she wrapped up the five-hour hearing on the legality of the NFL lockout, the federal judge overseeing the case said she'd take "a couple of weeks" to rule on the players' request to return to work.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, however, urged the two sides not to wait that long.

"It seems to me both sides are at risk, and now is a good time to come back to the table," Nelson said, noting her willingness to facilitate the resumption of talks toward a new collective bargaining agreement that would put pro football back on track.

Owners and players failed to reach that goal last month, leading to the decertification of the union, the lockout of the players and the antitrust lawsuit against the owners filed here by the players.

But the two sides don't agree on much these days.

James Quinn, an attorney for the players, said they'd "listen carefully" to Nelson's recommendation. But David Boies, a lawyer for the league, hedged when asked about Nelson's offer to supervise talks.

"We don't need a settlement of this lawsuit," Boies said. "What we need is a collective bargaining agreement so that players can go on playing and the league can put on games. Until we have that, we're not going to make any progress."

The injunction request—a plea to the judge that the lockout be immediately lifted on the grounds that their careers are being irreparably harmed—was the sole purpose of Wednesday's hearing.

The court appearance was the first round—call it the first quarter—between the NFL and the players in their legal fight over the future of the \$9 billion business and the 2011 season.

Teams of attorneys from both sides, officials from the now-dissolved union, several NFL players and dozens of reporters crowded the courtroom, but little was accomplished other than the formal launch of the legal process.

Boies argued that the court shouldn't have jurisdiction while the National Labor Relations Board is considering an unfair labor charge filed by the league that players didn't negotiate in good faith. The NFL's contention is that the union's decertification was a tactical maneuver and that it has the legal right to keep play-

ers from working.

Boies claimed players are still acting like a union, that the NFL Players' Association is funding the litigation and has set up other services for the players as if it were a fully formed labor entity. DeMaurice Smith, the head of the NFLPA, attended the hearing, and the players, lawyers and union officials arrived and departed together in a bus.

"They're financing this lawsuit," Boies said. "They're saying, 'We're no longer a collective bargaining agent, but we're going to continue to do all these things.'"

Quinn dismissed the accusation that the decertification was a sham, pointing to unanimous participation in a player vote to approve the move.

"It's not some kind of tactic. It's the law," Quinn said. "It's what we're allowed to do."

Plaintiffs Mike Vrabel, Ben Leber, Vincent Jackson, Brian Robison and Von Miller were joined in court by veterans Tony Richardson and Charlie Batch, members of the union's executive committee prior to dissolution. Tom Brady, Peyton Manning and Drew Brees, the three highest profile players named on the lawsuit, did not attend.

Hall of Famer Carl Eller, the lead plaintiff in a separate, similar case filed by retirees, former players and rookies, was also present. Nelson approved a motion to consolidate those cases, and attorney Michael Hausfeld—on behalf of the Eller group—took turns with Quinn arguing against and rebutting Boies.

Nelson listened to arguments from lawyers for the players and the league Wednesday, asking questions often and speaking politely but directly while acknowledging her difficulty discerning which components of the laws apply to this complicated case.

She expressed some frustration trying to understand some of the arguments, mostly those made by Boies, but oversaw a cordial process, telling the two sides they did an "outstanding job." Both sides praised Nelson afterward for her thorough approach and intelligent questions.

As she began the hearing, she urged both sides to stick to the issue of the injunction and not delve into the evidence presented previously in their briefs since all parties are up to speed on the information.

"You can assure that the court has done nothing else in the last few weeks," Nelson said.

Two-way tie in Agingan; Fotten Palau on top Obyan

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

 Jonny's Bar & Grill's Home Boyz and sister team IT&E Voyagers both notched 4-3 victories against separate foes in last Tuesday's Saipan Billiards Association Budweiser Open 8-Ball League matchups and continue to share the lead in the Agingan Division with identical 29-13 records.

The Home Boyz went into Buddies and bested IT&E Incredibles, taking three of the five singles matches and stealing the final doubles match via

tiebreaker for the clutch victory. The Voyagers defeated D'Pirates Best Choice (17-25) by winning the first three singles matches before dropping three games in a row, but held on and swept the final doubles pairing.

Notably, the other two Agingan teams—IT&E Incredibles and Utopia Bar's Docomo Hustlers—are also tied with identical 27-15 cards.

Agingan notables include one-time 8-ball sinkers Home Boyz's Mario Diola and IT&E Voyagers' Jojo Talibong, while IT&E Incredibles' Chester Hamoy and IT&E Voyagers' Rolly Villanueva each ran the

rack three times this season.

USSP Peleliu Club's Fotten Palau remains atop the six-member Obyan division, despite suffering a 2-5 loss to runner-up Wild Bill's Shark Attack at home last Tuesday. Fotten Palau took the first two singles matches, but Shark Attack took the last three singles pairings and swept both double games for the victory.

The loss evened out Fotten Palau's record to 21-21, three games ahead of up-and-coming Shark Attack. D'Pirates Best Choice resides in third place with VFW Post 3457's Xtream and USSP's Turtles tied for fourth at 15-27;

D'Pirates' Pirates are in last with a 12-30 slate.

Obyan notables include one-time 8-ball sinker Nong Detdon of Shark Attack and one-time rack runners Tero Takai of Best Choice, Fotten Palau's John Mongami, Turtles' Patrick Cepeda, and Xtream players Chester Cuento and Bobby Lozano.

Other SBA results include the Hustlers' 6-1 romp over VFW Xtream on the road and the Turtles' 4-3 road win over the Pirates.

The Hustlers dropped one singles match, but still gained ground on their division rivals, while the Turtles started slow

and lost the first two single games before ripping a four-win

tear for the victory; they lost the final doubles match.

LAOLAO

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single by Frank Hocog.

Man Amigos, however, answered with five runs in the bottom of the sixth to go ahead, 19-11.

Dela Cruz bashed a two-run double, Carl Hocog and Mike Sablan had RBI singles, and the other run scored off an error.

Your Balls managed five runs in their final stand, but were left scratching their heads.

V-Power 24, G-Ballers 11

After a scoreless opening frame, V-Power broke G-Ballers' backs early in this match with 17 runs in the top of the second inning.

Mel Sakisat airmailed a two-run homer, John Acosta an RBI single, John Taitano hit a sacrifice fly, Jeff Tomokane and Jason Reyes each followed with RBI base rips, and Ben Mesa drove in two runs a walk later.

Fred Sato then drove in another pair of walks after that and the onslaught continued as the next seven batters would all reach base off five hits and two walks before G-Ballers could get out of dodge.

G-Ballers managed four runs in the bottom frame, but V-Power got them right back in the top of the third.

G-Ballers then answered with four runs to end the third and added a run in bottom of the fourth inning, but V-Power answered with three runs to start the fifth, and contained G-Ballers to just a pair of runs in their final stand.

Chamolinian softball action continues tonight with a 6:30pm men's game featuring top-ranked Natibu (9-0) and Berdax (3-3) followed at 7:30pm with women's play between Enamo Meta and T&C Clan. The men retake the field at 8:30pm when Salty's squares off against Calikano-Groupers (3-6).

THEA

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will be Minor's second, as she had been to the French territory in 2008 to train and compete in a couple of tournaments, but it will be her first time to join an ITF event there.

From Noumea, Minor will head back to Fiji for the 2011 Air Pacific South Pacific Open

Junior Championships that will run from June 27 to July 3.

The tournament in Fiji is a Grade 4 event that awards 40 Junior ITF ranking points to the champion, 30 to runner-up, 20 to semifinalists, 15 to quarterfinalists, and 10 to losers in the Round of 16.

Minor will stay in Fiji for a few more weeks, as she will compete in two more events there. The CNMI junior netter

is expected to join the North Pacific Team that will participate in the 2011 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and Oceania Closed Junior Championship. She will be off-island for about two months, as she will return to Saipan on Aug. 19.

"She will train at the ITF House in Lautoka. That should be a lot of really good training for her. Thea has improved her

serve considerably this year and that will help her to win some matches this year. I hope it will be an exciting summer for her," CNMI coach Jeff Race said when asked about Minor's off-island competitions.

ITF development officer Dan O'Connell, who will be with Minor in Fiji and New Caledonia, said the CNMI bet will train in Fiji twice a day in preparation for the summer tournaments.

FIELDERS

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are sitting very strong in second place at 8-1. The Red Sox are currently in third place 5-1, while IP&E Strikers and YCO Corp. Ray's are tied in fourth place with 5-2 records.

Then comes IT&E (4-2),

Rep. Ramon Basa Docomo A's (3-2), Natibu Tanapag Falcons (2-2), Rep. Joseph P. DLGuererro-Tan Siu Lin-Mike Tenorio Comets (3-4), Marianas Health Services As Matuus Twins (3-4), McDonald's (1-4), Happy Market Ol'Aces (1-5), Attorney Robert T. Torres Little Legals (1-8), and the Natibu Tanapag Braves (0-6).

defeated fellow Saipan team, Rollers, and in the evening of the same day, Aguon's players dropped the match that could have put them in the playoffs.

"The game started with Team Justice taking a 20-point half-time lead. In the third quarter we made some adjustments, hounded their 7'0" center, and made them shoot from outside. This worked and we took the lead going into the fourth. We then managed to take a five-point lead with three minutes left. Unfortunately for us, Jack Lizama and Jomary Tumaquip fouled out with two minutes left and we started giving up fouls. They made their free throws and we lost to drop to fifth," Aguon said.

The defeat brought the CNMI development squad to the consolation game where they had another heart-breaking loss against Guam's MVP All-Stars.

With a 6-1 slate, the Big League IT&E team heads five other teams and is a win ahead of second-ranked Natibu Northern Stars.

Docomo Ol'Aces are in third place (5-2), followed by Island Apparel-Kagman Mobil Station Hustlers (3-2), Speaker Eli Cabera-Rep. Fred DLGuererro-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman

Lions (1-6), and JC Marketing-Toothworks Hunters (0-6).

The Senior League Lions and Fielders hold identical 6-1 records and are looking down on four other teams. CTS Ol'Aces (3-3), St. Michael's Hunters (4-4), Jets (3-5), and the Rep. Rafael Demapan Heats (0-8) are all trying to gain some ground.

DEV'T

From Page 36

wards exploited their advantage in speed against their much taller opponents.

"We saw that our guards were quicker so we trapped most of the game, making it hard for them to pass the ball. We won by 15," Aguon said. "Against Area 1, the winner of the tournament. We lost by nine. At one point, we were on top in the fourth quarter. They called a timeout and came out hard on us. We lost the game because we were out-rebounded. They had six guys that stood between 6'4" and 6'10."

Their game over Area 1 finished past 2pm and by 4pm, the CNMI bets stepped on the court to play the Bombers and fatigue took its toll on the visitors. The next day, the development pool

MVP tied the game, 63-all. With 30 seconds left and the 35-second shot clock off, the CNMI could have melted the clock more before taking a shot. However, the visitors took a hurried shot and missed with 15 seconds left. The MVP All-Stars grabbed possession after the miss, drew a foul in the ensuing play, and made both charities for the lead. The CNMI cagers had the last attempt, but missed anew, handing MVP All-Stars the win.

Despite falling short in the Guam tournament, Aguon was optimistic about the squad's future. They made their free throws and we lost to drop to fifth," Aguon said.

The guys that made up the team have learned valuable basketball and life lessons that will enhance their lives forever. They now know what it takes to play those high level competitions. They have made a commitment to the program and to

each other to continue training and be ready for the next challenge that may come anytime. I am very proud of them, as they are invited again by Andersen coach Gerard Barnes to join the tournament next year," Aguon said.

Aguon fielded an 11-man roster in the Guam tournament. The list includes Dan and Aitao Barcinas, Pete Iguel, Jack Lizama, Jason Bahillo, Quincy Johnson, Marvin Rabauliman, Mike Babauta, Gino Libuw, Jomar Tumaquip, and Guy Mosley. Also on the pool, but missed the trip were Peter Mendiola and Joe Villacrusis.

Meanwhile, the team thanked the followed for making their Guam trip possible: BANMI, NMC, Thrifty Car Rental, Priscilla Tenorio, Tim Quan, Susan Macario, Claire Aguon and her squad, and all those who supported the group's fundraisers.

9 PAIRS

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only one pair has gained a semis ticket after Hibi and Lampera defeated Lani Bartolome and Lazaro, 21-13, 21-19. The three other quarterfinal matches were played last night, while semis games and the finals will take place this weekend.

In the mixed C doubles, the semis cast was completed on Wednesday night. Yeol and Meng booked the first semis ticket after sweeping Eydie Uy and Malou Mendoza, 21-10, 21-12.

In the semis, the Korean pair will challenge the tandem of Camacho and Curate, who stunned pool play top finisher Charlie Borja and Windy Fernandez in the quarterfinals, 7-21, 21-12,

21-13. Before the loss, Borja and Fernandez were 5-0 in the elimination round.

The other semis pairing in the mixed C doubles will have Hee and Ranah versus Brien and Savellano. Hee and Ranah topped Son Jae Ok and Ester Yong in straight sets, 21-16, 21-7, to make it to the next round, while Brien and Savellano also swept Patrick Sang

Do and Angela Park, 21-13, 21-14, to stay in contention for the championship.

Playoff games are expected to be completed tonight, while the title matches in women's and men's C doubles and mixed A doubles are set for tomorrow. Sunday's games are for championship duels in mixed B and C, men's and women's A, and men's B doubles divisions.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	54	23	.701	—
x-New York	40	38	.513	14 1/2
x-Philadelphia	40	39	.506	15
New Jersey	24	54	.308	30 1/2
Toronto	21	57	.269	33 1/2

Southeast Division

y-Miami	54	24	.692	—
x-Orlando	50	29	.633	4 1/2
x-Atlanta	44	34	.564	10
Charlotte	32	46	.410	22
Washington	21	57	.269	33

Central Division

y-Chicago	57	20	.740	—
x-Indiana	36	43	.456	22
Milwaukee	32	46	.410	25 1/2
Detroit	27	51	.346	30 1/2
Cleveland	17	61	.218	40 1/2

West Division

Texas	6	0	1.000	—
Los Angeles	3	3	.500	3
Seattle	2	4	.333	4
Oakland	1	4	.200	4 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	4	1	.800	—

Laolao Bay notches win No. 2, upsets Red Eye

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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Budweiser CHAMOLINIAN SOFTBALL LEAGUE Laolao Bay notched its second win in eight games with a 17-7 run-rule upset win over Red Eye in six innings as the 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's division resumed Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

It was the sixth loss in nine outings for Red Eye. Two other men's division matches went down Wednesday night with V-Power (6-2) running over G-Ballers (3-5) in five innings, 24-11, and Man Amigos (4-2) edging Your Balls (2-4), 9-16.

V-Power is now tied for third place with Salty's, while Man Amigos is tied for fourth place with Island Apparel X-clusive (4-2) in the men's standings.

Laolao Bay 17, Red-Eye 7

Red Eye took a brief 2-0 lead in the top of the opening frame off a two-RBI single by Zack Dela Cruz, but Laolao answered and went ahead 3-2 in the bottom frame off a two-run homerun by Nico Martin and an RBI base rip by Robin Oiph.

Red Eye then reclaimed the lead, 4-3, in the top of the third off a two-run blast from Swayne Cangco, but Laolao Bay jumped ahead, 9-4, in the bottom frame.

They loaded the bases right away with three hits that set up a grand slam an out later by Jimmy Brel. Nick Cruz then belted

»Man Amigos, V-Power also victorious



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Man Amigos' Roy Celis unleashes a three-run homerun against Your Balls during their 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's division game Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

an RBI single and the other run came in off an error.

Red Eye managed a pair of runs to start the third off a lead-off solo shot by Dave Camacho and an RBI base hit by Tyron Omar, but Laolao Bay got them back in the bottom frame off a two-RBI double by Brel.

Noki Torres drove home for Red Eye in the top of the fourth, but Laolao Bay shot ahead, 15-7, in the bottom frame with a two-run shot by Martin, an RBI base knock by Ray San Nicolas, and an error.

Red Eye came up empty in the top half of the fifth and Laolao Bay mustered the two runs needed for an early deci-

sion thanks to a two-run walk-off bomb by Timothy Cruz.

Laolao Bay's Brel and Cruz both batted 4-for-4; Brel accrued four RBIs and two other runs, while Cruz managed three RBIs and a run.

Man Amigos 19, Your Balls 16

Man Amigos took an early 3-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning off a two-run homer by Eric Palacios and an RBI single by Joey Dela Cruz, but Your Balls answered with seven runs in the top of the second.

Andy Maratita busted a two-run homer, after which Your Balls loaded up the bases, set-

ting up an RBI single by Pat George, followed by a Gary Cruz grand slam.

Man Amigos then went ahead, 8-7, in the bottom frame. Joe Torres hammered a one-out solo shot, John Terlaje and Roy Celis each smashed an RBI single, and Peter Sablan belted a two-RBI base rip.

Your Balls did not answer and Man Amigos added six runs to its lead in the bottom of the fourth frame.

Celis busted a three-run homer, Peter Sablan followed with a solo shot, and the other two runs came off two hits, an error, and a fielder's choice.

Your Balls managed three

Snipers, Wild Shooters, Kamotes, Troubleshooters atop divisions

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

SEDA Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Sniper Destroyers, Buddies' Wild Shooters, Jonny's IT&E Kamotes, and Wild Bill's DPW Troubleshooters are the current frontrunners of leagues organized by the Saipan Electronics Dart Association.

The Snipers squeaked past sister team D'Companeros (47-55), 9-8, at home last March 30 and remained on top of the Bud Light Masters Division with a 67-35 record.

Other results saw second-ranked Buddies' Black Stallions (59-43) upset at home by D'Pirates Bar & Grill's M-Destroyers (51-51), 11-6 and Jonny's Elite (47-55) defeat Round Two-PIC Shooters (45-57), 9-8, at home. Cellar dweller Buddies' Flying Dartsmen (41-61) had a bye.

Wild Shooters, meanwhile, knocked off Oleai's Why Not (51-54), 9-6, in a home match last March 31 and are clinging to a slim one-game lead over sister team Lights Out in the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Oleai Beach Bar & Grill's Sniper Destroyers, seen here in a file photo, edged out sister team D'Companeros at home last Wednesday to remain in first place in the SEDA Bud Light Masters Division.

10-team B-Flame Tree Division standings. Wild Shooters' Renato "Boy" Barros threw a 128 High-Out in the matchup.

Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Na'Gupu and Oleai's No Fear are tied for third with identical 56-49 records.

Other results in the division, saw eighth-ranked D'Pirates Delubyo (48-57) upsetting Lights Out, 11-4, in a home game; fifth place Gaia Bar's Gaiana-B (53-52) nipping Na'Gupu, 8-7, at home; VFW

Post 3457 Dutty Gunz (52-53) picking off USSP Peleliu Club's Whatever (45-60), 11-4, on the road; and No Fear brushing off The Flair Bar's Real Deal (45-60), 11-4 at home.

IT&E Kamotes bested Buddies' Akiramai Buddy! (54-51), 11-4, at home last Thursday and still hold a healthy margin in the eight-team B-Fanihi Division with a 73-32 card. Akiramai's Bam Vicente shot a 142 High-In in the match.

Buddies' AG Piligro (54-36) is alone in second place with VFW's PSS Drivers and Oleai's CUC Power Plant tied for third place with 48-42 cards.

In other results, Drivers squished sister team DPS Enforcers (45-45), 10-5, on the road and CUC Power Plant went into Jonny's and knocked off NMC Proa (29-61), 10-5.

runs in the top of the sixth off a two-run blast by Steve Igisomar and a solo homerun

by Cruz and added another in the top of the sixth off an RBI

See LAOLAO on Page 34

Three-way tie for Belau league lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Three teams are in a deadlock for the lead in the 2011 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-Pitch League.

The Koror Tigers, TKK 2, and Asahi hold identical 7-1 slates to share the top spot in the 12-team field, as the Belau league nears completion of the round-robin regular season.

The Tigers, TKK, and Asahi each notched their seventh wins after downing separate foes at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield during Week 8 of the league.

TKK 2 9, Hilitai 0

TKK shut out Hilitai, 9-0, as the former's pitcher, Mike Sablan, allowed only three hits in six and a half innings.

On offense, Toi Celis led TKK, as he nailed a grand slam at the bottom of the fourth and went 3-for-3 at bat with two homers and five RBIs.

Koror Tigers 21, Falcons 2

Also cruising to an easy win was the Tigers who devoured the Falcons, 21-2.

A 13-run top of the first inning gave the Tigers early momentum and they never looked back. Leadoff batter Jess Iguel scored two runs in the first inning juggernaut, including a three-run homer in his second trip at bat.

Haga T 5, Auel Auel 3

In the last game in Week 8, Haga T defeated Auel Auel, 5-3.

Haga T allowed Auel Auel to score only in the third inning to notch its second win in eight games.

DFS softball tourney tomorrow



Team 670 and 671 will go head-to-head for the third time, as the 3rd Annual DFS Goodwill Softball Tournament kicks off tomorrow at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The host—Team 670—is composed of 20 employees/players from DFS Saipan, while suiting up for Team 671 are 18 employees from DFS Guam. When these two teams met for the first time in 2009 at the Capital Hill Ballfield, Team 671/DFS Guam won in a best-of-three game, 2-1. Then last year, Team 670/DFS Saipan avenged its loss in the inaugural tournament, beating DFS Guam at the Yigo Field, 2-1.

This year, the two teams will play in another best-of-three series with the first match set for 10am. The second game is scheduled at 1pm, while the deciding Game 3, if necessary, is slated at 2pm.

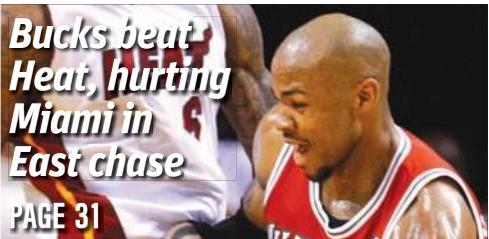
A homerun derby will be played at 12pm and the compe-

tition is open to both male and female players. Trophy presentation and awarding of MVP plums and sportsmanship trophy will take place at the conclusion of the games.

Players are asked to be at the field by 8:30am in time for the opening ceremony where DFS Guam team manager Juan Castro and his Saipan counterpart, Ray Camacho, will deliver the opening remarks.

DFS Saipan assistant general manager for operations Ben Babauta, who with John Perez came up with the idea of holding the tournament, said the event aims to foster camaraderie among DFS employees and their families.

"Both islands has an employee softball team that play in island-wide league or special tournament to promote physically fitness. This event builds team spirit outside the work place with other companies and players," said Babauta. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)



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Thea debuts in two Jr. ITF tourneys

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior netter Thea Minor is hoping to get Junior ITF ranking points when she competes in two off-island tournaments in July.

First up for the Saipan Southern High School student is the 2011 Open Junior BNP Paribas of New Caledonia in Noumea. The event that will run from June 20 to 24 is a Grade 5 tournament, which offers 30 Junior ITF ranking points to the champion in singles, 20 for runner-up, 15 for semifinalists, 10 for quarterfinalists, and five for Round of 16 qualifiers.

The New Caledonia event is the same tournament that gave former CNMI junior netter Ji



Hoon Heo five Junior ITF ranking points when the latter advanced to the Round of 16 of both the singles and doubles events.

"I am pretty excited with these two tournaments, especially the one in New Caledonia. I knew I will be facing tough opponents, but I will do my best and hopefully I can get a win or two and eventually gain ranking points," the 15-year-old netter said.

The trip in New Caledonia
See THEA on Page 34

9 pairs survive quarterfinals foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

NMBA Nine more teams advanced to the semifinal round after downing separates foes in their quarterfinal games in the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition on Wednesday at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

The list includes Gary Bandoja and Oh Imbog, Sam Jones and Glenn Buultjens, Mario Diola and Narlo Achas, Saul Gargallo and John Revilla, Gerry Hibi and Lucelle Lampera Oh An Yeol and Hwang Meong, Luis Camacho and Elna Curate, Lee Choon Hee and Kimbo Ranah, and Rick Brien and Jen Savellano.

Bandoja and Imbog notched a semis seat in the men's C doubles after sweeping Lito Mendoza and Alvin Alvarez, 21-12, 21-19. Jones and Buultjens needed three sets to thwart Edwin Maratas and Jorge Olanda, 21-15, 17-21, 21-14, and arrange a semis duel against Bandoja and Imbog.

Diola and Achas won their quarterfinal game against Wowie Abuel and Jojo Lazaro in straight sets, 21-16, 21-16, to force a semis tiff over Gargallo and Revilla, who topped Noli Santos and Rommel Catalma also in two sets, 21-18, 21-18.

In the mixed B doubles,
See 9 PAIRS on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Lucelle Lampera hits a volley during an elimination round game in the Tan Holdings doubles tournament last month at the REM Center Court in Gualo Rai.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor, seen here serving during a singles game in last month's PIC tournament, will be competing in New Caledonia and Fiji this summer.

Dev't squad earns return trip to Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI development squad showed promise in last month's 2011 March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Championships in Guam, earning them a return trip to the annual tournament next year.

"The team did very well despite not being used to NCAA rules and being a very small team in the land of the giants. There were two games, which we could have won and propelled us to the championship round, but we did not. Still we made history by winning two games, al-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of the CNMI development pool/NMC Proa pose for a group photo after their first game in the Guam March Madness last month at the Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex in Andersen Air Force Base.

Laolao Bay notches win No. 2, upsets Red Eye
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Fielders atop Junior, Big Leagues

»Jets lead Majors; two-way tie in Seniors

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

IT&E's Big League and Junior League Fielders and the Juan S. Tenorio Jets in the Majors are the current frontrunners in the Saipan Little League Baseball team standings.

Tan Holdings Fielders and Tan Siu Lin-Rep. Fred DLGuererro-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions, meanwhile, are tied for first place in the Senior League standings.

IT&E is undefeated at 8-0 in the Junior League, while rival BTS Survivors are close behind with their 7-2 card.



As the only winning squads in the seven-team field, these titans are clearly dominating the division.

The other five teams include Tan Siu Lin-Fred DLGuererro-Rep. Ramon S. Basa Kagman Lions (3-3); Natibu Falcons (3-4); Martha's Retail Store Ol'Aces (3-5); the Saipan Shipping-Pacific Amusement Jets (3-6); and the Bank of Saipan Red Sox (2-7).

The Jets, for their part, are the lone undefeated team in the 14-team Major League with an immaculate 6-0 record.

However JPO Enforcers
See FIELDERS on Page 34



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
IT&E Fielders players pose for a photo in the dugout during their 2011 Junior League season opener against Ol'Aces at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

most winning two more, and finishing fifth in our pool," coach Rufino Aguon said.

Aguon's wards won over Naval Hospital Guam, 66-51, and Rollers Basketball Club, 61-50, but had two crucial losses (against Area 4 All-Stars, Korea, 46-53, and versus Guam's Team Justice 66-74) to end up with a 2-4 card in pool play. The development pool also bowed to Area 1 All-Stars, 58-69, and the Andersen Bombers, 51-81, to fall a step short of making it to the playoffs. Only the Top 4 teams in each pool advanced to the double-elimination playoffs.

In their game against Area 4, the CNMI cagers went ahead by five with three minutes left in the fourth, but fell prey to their foe's trapping defense in the homestretch. In their second match versus Naval, Aguon's

See DEV'T on Page 34